Bengaluru Saturday, February 28, 2026 Pages 30 Vol 79 No 59 ₹8

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WHACKY VERSE

Windows open

It's now revealed Bill Gates
Went on some secret dates.
So those Epstein files
Are wiping out smiles—
As they expose closet mates.

DH on Saturday

DECCAN HERALD
The Power of Good

Canadian PM arrives in India, to hold talks with Modi

P12

THE CHRONOLOGY

- **Nov 2021** Delhi's AAP govt introduces new excise policy
- **Aug 2022** CBI and ED register cases
- **Sept 2022** Delhi govt scraps excise policy
- **Feb 2023** Sisodia arrested
- **Oct 2023 - March 2024** ED issues nine summonses to Kejriwal
- **March 2024** BRS leader K Kavitha arrested
- **March 2024** ED arrests Kejriwal
- **May, 2024** SC's interim bail to Kejriwal to campaign in LS polls
- **June, 2024** Trial court grants regular bail to Kejriwal; HC stays bail, CBI arrests him
- **Sep 2024** SC grants bail to Kejriwal
- **Feb 2026** Delhi court discharges all accused

Liquor policy case: Kejriwal, Sisodia & Kavitha discharged

Court raps CBI for lapses, says it failed to prove irregularities

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Dealing a big blow to the CBI, a special court here on Friday discharged former Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal, his then deputy Manish Sisodia and 21 other accused in the liquor policy scam case.

The court found that the material placed on record by the probe agency did not disclose even a prima facie case, much less any grave suspicion, against any of the accused persons.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh cleared all the 23 accused in the case lodged by the CBI on August 17, 2022, after holding that the prosecution had failed to cross the minimum threshold mandated by law at the stage of framing of charges.

The court also rebuked the CBI for proceeding in an ever-expanding sweep, seemingly driven by the question of who all could be brought within its fold and finally straying into the constitutionally demarcated domain of election expenditure.

Kejriwal, Sisodia and former BRS leader K Kavitha were arrested during the probe.

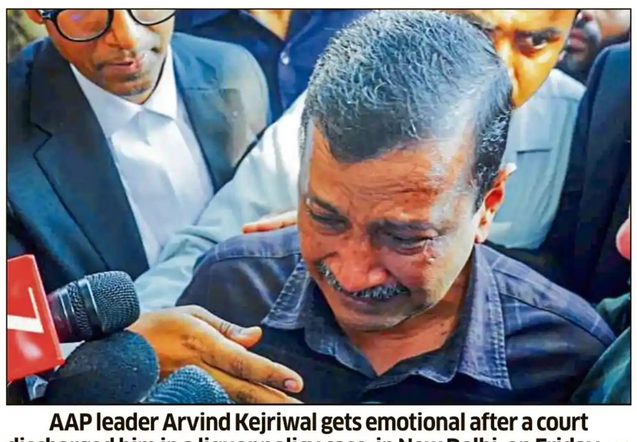
Kejriwal had refused to resign as Delhi CM during his judicial custody. Both were finally granted bail by the Supreme Court.

While ordering a departmental inquiry against the investigating officer for lapses, the court held that the CBI failed to place any material which suggested the excise policy was manipulated for the benefit of any individual or the so called "South Group".

"On the contrary, the contemporaneous record clearly establishes the policy was the outcome of a consultative and deliberative exercise, undertaken after engagement with relevant stakeholders and in adherence to the procedure prescribed under law," the court said in its 598-page order.

▸ Kejriwal, Page 7

With clean chit, Kejriwal ready to reset, Page 10



AAP leader Arvind Kejriwal gets emotional after a court discharged him in a liquor policy case, in New Delhi, on Friday. PTI

Kejriwal slams Modi, Shah

Kejriwal accused PM Modi and HM Amit Shah of plotting the "biggest political conspiracy" in independent India's history. He said the court has proved that "Kejriwal, Sisodia and AAP are "brutally honest".

Details on Page 10

CBI files appeal in HC

The CBI has filed an appeal in the Delhi HC. Its officials were of the view that the special court either "ignored or not considered" several aspects.

Details on Page 10

274 Taliban personnel dead as Pakistan declares 'open war' against Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD/KABUL, AGENCIES

Pakistan bombed major cities in Afghanistan, including the capital Kabul, on Friday, with Islamabad's defence minister stating there is an "open war" between the neighbours following months of tit-for-tat clashes.

Beyond Kabul, home to 6 million people, the strikes hit the southern city of Kandahar—where the Taliban's supreme leader, Sheikh Haibatullah Akhundzada, lives—and the border province of Paktia, according to Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesperson for the Taliban government.

Pakistan launched the strikes hours after Afghan troops had attacked Pakistani border positions, according to Afghan and Pakistani officials. Afghan officials described their assault as retaliation for Pakistani strikes earlier in the week.

"Our cup of patience has overflowed," Pakistan defense minister Khawaja Asif said on social media. "Now it is open war between us and you."

Taliban personnel operate an anti-aircraft gun near the Durand Line. AFP

Both sides gave conflicting accounts of the casualties. Pakistan's military spokesperson Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry told reporters that its air force hit 22 Afghan military targets. At least 12 Pakistani soldiers were killed and 274 Taliban officials and militants were killed since Thursday night, he said.

▸ Afghanistan, Page 7

Pak's salvo risks long crisis, Page 14

Growth upgraded to 7.6% in new GDP series

GYANENDRA KESHRI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Central government on Friday upgraded its estimate for the current financial year's economic growth to 7.6%, up from the 7.4% projection announced in January.

In the October-December 2025 quarter, the country's gross domestic product (GDP) expanded by 7.8%, lower than 8.4% growth recorded in the previous quarter, as per data released by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).

The National Statistics Office (NSO) released the first quarterly and yearly data of national accounts with a base year of 2022-23, replacing the previous series with a 2011-12 base year.

The GDP growth for the 2024-25 financial year has been revised upward to 7.1%. Real GDP or GDP at constant prices (2022-23) is to rise to Rs 322.58 lakh crore in the current fiscal.

Nominal GDP or GDP at Current Prices is estimated to increase to Rs 345.47 lakh crore in 2025-26, against Rs 318.07 lakh crore in the previous year, registering a growth of 8.6%.

Addressing a press conference, Chief Economic Adviser V Anantha Nageswaran said India's GDP is likely to cross the $4 trillion mark in 2026-27, with nominal growth of 11%.

Real GDP growth in 2026-27 is estimated to be in the range of 7-7.4%.

▸ GDP, Page 7

DKS loyalists' dinner meet triggers buzz

BENGALURU, DHNS

Speculation over a possible leadership change in the ruling Congress in Karnataka intensified after nearly 35–40 MLAs, largely seen as loyal to Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar, attended a dinner meeting at a private hotel on Thursday.

Though convened to celebrate Magadi MLA H C Balakrishna's birthday, the gathering triggered talk of factional mobilisation ahead of the post–Budget session phase.

Legislators who attended the dinner said a delegation plans to visit Delhi to seek "clarity" from the party high command on the leadership question.

D K Shivakumar

The meeting follows a recent foreign tour by legislators perceived to be aligned with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, who travelled to Australia and New Zealand, further fuelling speculations about a possible power-sharing arrangement.

Even as the party leadership has remained silent, MLAs warned that continued uncertainty could hurt electoral prospects.

"If the current confusion prevails, our party cannot retain power in the next elections. We have decided to urge the high command to give clarity. This has become a constant irritant. It is difficult for us to face our constituents," Balakrishna said.

Most attendees were Vokkaliga leaders from the Old Mysore region, pointing to a possible community consolidation.

▸ Congress, Page 7

HC division bench allows release of 'The Kerala Story 2'

A division bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday allowed the release of controversial film 'The Kerala Story 2 - Goes beyond'. The division bench removed an interim stay on the release of the movie ordered on Thursday by a single bench.

Details on Page 12

Jaya's chosen man Panneerselvam joins arch-rival DMK

Three-time AIADMK chief minister O Panneerselvam, who was chosen by the late J Jayalalithaa twice to act as stand-in for her when she had to quit due to corruption cases, joined the DMK on Friday -- a boost to TN CM M K Stalin ahead of the elections.

Details on Page 10

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How B'luru got its salsa guru

In this week's Saturday Story, a writer visits Latin dancer Lourd Vijay at his Cunningham Road studio to trace his journey. He began teaching at pubs and restaurants, spreading the dance craze in Bengaluru. Next, he aims to showcase Karnataka's folk dance forms.

The SATURDAY STORY

Full story, Page 17

Judgment nullifying MLA election stayed

The Supreme Court on Friday put on hold the Karnataka High Court's judgment which set aside the election of Congress MLA S N Subbareddy from the Bagepalli constituency in Chikkaballapur district during the 2023 legislative assembly polls.

Details on Page 6

SC bail to Cong MLA Kulkarni in murder case

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Congress MLA and former Karnataka minister Vinay Kulkarni in a case related to the murder of a BJP worker in 2016, after noting that all the cited witnesses have been examined.

Details on Page 6

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A new beginning for racecourse

THE FINAL LAP

What will the racecourse land look like, 10 years from now? The consensus is that it should be a lung space

SHREE D N
BENGALURU, DHNS

After decades of legal uncertainty over the fate of the iconic racecourse land in central Bengaluru, the Bangalore Turf Club is now set to relocate to Kunigal following a recent Cabinet approval by the Government of Karnataka.

The decision paves the way for racing activities to shift to a new site in Kunigal, bringing fresh clarity to a dispute that dates back to a 2010 ruling by the High Court of Karnataka directing the club to vacate the existing premises after the expiry of its lease.

With relocation timelines now under discussion, questions remain over how the historic Race Course Road land will be redeveloped and what the move means for the future of horse racing in the state.

The history of the land

The erstwhile Maharaja of Mysore granted a total of 83 acres and 14 guntas of land to the Bangalore Turf Club on September 9, 1923, to support horse racing competitions. This land was later leased to the club by the Public Works Department (PWD). The lease expired on December 31, 2009.

The annual rent paid by the Bangalore Turf Club at the end of the lease period was Rs 25.94 lakh. In September 2008, the government ordered the cancellation of the lease and the repossession of the entire parcel of land, and suggested identifying a suitable location on the outskirts of the city for the club to establish a new racecourse.

In March 2010, the High Court of Karnataka granted the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) six months to vacate the racecourse land, setting a deadline of September 22, 2010. It directed the BTC to pay Rs 5 lakh per month to the state government from the date the lease period expired.

The court barred the Turf Club from carrying out any construction that would be detrimental to the area's ecology and environment. It also asked the state government to ensure that the area was used by the Turf Club only for permitted activities during this six-month period, in accordance with the law.

However, due to pending court cases and other issues, this did not happen, though negotiations continued.

Sources said the BTC wanted to retain four acres of land, including key structures such as the heritage building and clubhouse, at the current site. However, the PWD, under whose jurisdiction the land falls, rejected the proposal. The department maintained that if a heritage building existed on the land, it would be government property, and therefore, the request could not be accepted.

Due to the ongoing litigation, the rent for the 83 acres and 14 guntas in the city centre was not revised thereafter. The Bangalore Turf Club continued to pay the annual rent of Rs 25.94 lakh, which the government considered a loss.

Sources said the PWD had calculated that if rent were charged at 2% of the institution's total annual income, the Club would have owed Rs 39.45 crore for the period from January 1, 2010, to March 31, 2021. The recent Cabinet meeting has finally ended the uncertainty surrounding the issue, but probably four acres of land will stay with the BTC.

An aerial view of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) as seen on Friday. DH PHOTO/PUSHKAR V

What is lung space?

There is no formal, legally applicable definition of 'lung space' anywhere. But it essentially means 'open space'. Karnataka Parks, Play-Fields and Open Spaces (Preservation and Regulation) Act, 1985 – which is an official state statute focused on preserving public parks and open land, defines "open space" as any land on which there are no buildings, or not more than one-twentieth is covered with buildings, and which is used or meant for recreation, air or light, or set apart for civic amenity purposes. This provides a formal statutory basis for preserving spaces that contribute to air quality, light, and recreational amenities in urban areas.

Many more years to go

"The government had assured us 109 acres of land in Kunigal and asked us to start shifting. We called for a general body meeting in October and passed a resolution to shift," L Shivashankar, Chairman and Senior Steward of the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC) Ltd, told *DH*.

On February 12, a Cabinet meeting approved the leasing of land near Kunigal.

"Here (in the current location), they are offering four acres to us. It is still under negotiation. After everything is finalised, we will have to file a compromise settlement petition before the Supreme Court and amicably resolve the issue," he said.

"We would need at least three years after the land is leased to us in Kunigal. We will need two years to reset and prepare the course. Until such time, racing will continue at the present premises," Shivashankar explained.

"A racecourse is not just greenery. Beneath the turf, different types of soil layers are required. A racehorse weighs a minimum of 450 kilograms, so the impact is heavy. The soil must be firm, and the track needs time to settle. We use different types of soil — red soil, clay, sand — about five or six varieties. Then, grass is grown over it to create natural turf. Buildings, original stables, and all facilities will also be constructed there. We need two to three years to do this. Planning has not fully begun yet. Once the government order is issued, we will call professionals from abroad to design the layout," he said.

"This means that racing will continue for another three years, after which the club will be shifted. The demolition of existing structures and the development of the land as a tree park or lung space will take a few more years. By 2035, we can probably hope for something substantial," said an urban planner who preferred to remain anonymous.

What should come up on the racecourse land?

Around 2012, some sections of the government floated the idea of constructing a huge multi-storey building on the Turf Club land. However, this was rejected by the public, with many eminent citizens writing to the government, urging it to shelve any such plans.

"There should definitely be a renewed effort to ensure that the land does not immediately become a construction site," said Ammu Joseph, a journalist who was part of a group that wrote to the government at the time.

Rizwan Arshad, MLA of the Shivajinagar constituency under which the Race Course land falls, said the decision to shift the Turf Club from the heart of the city to the outskirts was a bold step in the right direction.

"It's an invaluable asset for the city. I strongly feel the land should be designated as a lung space to increase green cover. It should be a space for people to come together. It should not be utilised for any developmental activities," he said.

"Even if four acres of land are retained by the Bangalore Turf Club and another eight to nine acres go to the High Court complex, the rest should be reserved as a lung space. It could become another Cubbon Park," he added.

"As a legislator of the area, I am very clear, and I will advocate for it," he declared.

Since it is still early, the government does not appear to have consulted stakeholders about the future use of the land. However, Arshad said he has conveyed his views to the government, and that it appears to be thinking along similar lines.

Naresh Narasimhan, an architect based in the city, said the land should be developed as an ecological commons. "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Bengaluru. Eighty-plus acres in the city's core cannot become another real estate play. For decades, this land has been visually central yet socially inaccessible. Ten years from now, it should function as Bengaluru's great democratic landscape — a climate buffer, biodiversity park, and civic gathering ground," he said.

"Of the 80 acres, about 10 acres could accommodate a new, future-ready High Court complex. The remaining 70 acres should become Karnataka Udyanavana — a biodiversity park dedicated to the state's indigenous flora," he added.

The demand gains significance because the city has been losing its green cover fast. According to data, parks and open spaces account for approximately only 2.58% of the city's developed area, which includes 1,288 public parks. The city's recorded forest cover stood at about 89.6 sq km in 2023.

Feedback:
pointblank@ deccanherald.co.in

METRO

Special trains

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Indian Railways, in association with private operators South Star and Tour Times, has announced summer special tourist trains to Kashmir and Vaishno Devi, each spanning 13 days.

The all-inclusive package tour begins on April 11, and bookings are open. The Indian Railways is offering a 33% subsidiary on the service.

The train will be equipped with PA systems for onboard announcements, dedicated coach security and tour managers, travel insurance, hotels, sightseeing and transfers, and unlimited meals (onboard and offboard).

Unlike regular trains, this special tourist train is not available for booking on the IRCTC website. Reservations can only be made by contacting at 93550 21516 or visiting www.tourtimes.in.

BWSSB, IISc team up for AI-based groundwater study

Evolve framework to implement precautionary steps in 65 wards

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board (BWSSB) has partnered with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) to analyse the city's groundwater data using Artificial Intelligence (AI).

Ram Prasath Manohar

Based on these insights, precautionary measures have been initiated across 65 wards, BWSSB Chairman Ram Prasath Manohar announced on Thursday.

In a statement, Manohar said this is the first time in the country that an AI-based framework has been developed to predict and manage potential water shortages.

An IISc-led team used AI to analyse real-time data gathered through (Internet of Things) IoT technology. This analysis identified a potential water scarcity in 65 wards across Bengaluru. With this predictive data, the BWSSB is prepared to tackle the situation.

Strict instructions have been issued to ensure borewells and RO plants across these 65 wards operate without disruptions.

Water misuse equal to heavy fines

- Using drinking water for non-essential purposes such as washing vehicles, gardening and cleaning courtyards will attract strict fines.
- Use of treated water is mandatory for all building construction activities.
- Properties in the 65 identified wards lacking water supply will be identified and provided with immediate connections. Apartment complexes within these wards will also receive fast-tracked water connections.
- To recharge depleting groundwater, steps are being taken to fill lakes within these 65 wards using treated water.
- Slums and highly populated zones facing water stress have been identified. The water board will install Sintex tanks and set up temporary water distribution centres in these localities. Water tankers will be deployed wherever strictly necessary.

Bescom completes maintenance of 1.14 lakh transformers for summer

New app ensures accountable transformer upkeep

SNEHA RAMESH
BENGALURU, DHNS

This summer, Bengaluru may see fewer power supply interruptions as Bescom has completed maintenance of nearly 1.14 lakh transformers in the last two months using the Distribution Transformer Life Cycle Management System (DTLMS) mobile application.

The newly developed application has improved transformer quality by ensuring accountability and transparency in maintenance.

Transformer failures and repair are the main reasons for unscheduled power cuts during summer, officials said.

"Most unscheduled power interruptions occur because of loose connections, fuse failures and other transformer problems. Though we mandate regular maintenance for all transformers, there was no way to ensure quality. Now, with the new application, we can track all maintenance activities. The quality of transformer performance has also improved," said Dr N Shivashankara N, Managing Director of Bescom.

The application lists activities to be performed during maintenance. Officials must upload before and after photographs of works with timestamps.

"Earlier, many would just do basic cleaning, resulting in repeated transformer failures. Now, those carrying out maintenance must check 8-10 parameters and feed in details of the works completed. Officials will be accountable and can be questioned if a serviced transformer breaks down," a senior Bescom official said.

He added that extensive transformer maintenance is especially crucial before summer, as overheating often leads to breakdowns.

"Oil changes and other preventive activities before summer help reduce transformer failures, so power interruptions will also come down," the official said.

During the launch of the DLTMS application in January, Energy Minister KJ George announced that the application will also help improve the lifetime of transformers.

Such preventive measures will also help reduce expenses on repeated transformer repairs, officials said.

Officials aim to complete the first round of maintenance of all five lakh transformers using the application by March-end.

Senior Bescom official

"Earlier, many would just do basic cleaning, resulting in repeated transformer failures. Now, those carrying out maintenance must check 8-10 parameters and feed in details of the works completed. Officials will be accountable and can be questioned if a serviced transformer breaks down.

'AI provides information, critical thinking builds knowledge': ISME hosts CIM meet

BENGALURU, DHNS

International School of Management Excellence (ISME), Bengaluru, hosted the International Conference on Contemporary Issues in Management (CIM) 2026, sparking discussions on Artificial Intelligence, research ethics, and industry-ready methodologies.

The Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred on TV Rao, co-founder of the National HRD Network.

Setting the broader tone for the conference, he said: "AI can do almost everything we can do, and often faster. But it cannot deal with the unforeseen. Only human beings can apply creativity and judgment in new situations.

"We should use AI, but we should not become dependent on it."

The 14th International Conference on 'Contemporary Issues in Management' was held at the International School of Management Excellence (ISME) on February 20 and 21.

Panel discussions and session summaries examined how rapidly evolving technology is reshaping research practices in management education.

Speakers acknowledged that AI tools have simplified literature reviews, data organisation, and even classroom preparation. However, concerns were raised about unverified outputs, fabricated references, and the growing risk of plagiarism.

One panellist remarked, "AI provides information. Knowledge still requires critical thinking."

Discussions also focused on maintaining originality in academic writing and ensuring transparency in AI-assisted research.

Dr Nitin Garg, Director, ISME; Dr Pallavi Garg, Director of Admissions and External Relations, ISME; and other faculty members were present.

Maintain road medians and plants, DyCM directs UDD

BENGALURU: Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Friday urged the city's five corporations to ensure proper maintenance of road medians, including ornamental plants that are currently in poor condition.

In a letter to the Urban Development Department (UDD), he noted that both the medians and plants have not been maintained adequately. He directed the UDD to prepare an action plan to keep road medians free of garbage and ensure the plants are well looked after.

GBA lays foundation stone for new canteen

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Greater Bengaluru Authority (GBA), in collaboration with the Bengaluru Central City Corporation, on Friday laid the foundation stone for a new canteen at the GBA head office in Hudson Circle.

The project, estimated to cost Rs 98 lakh, aims to provide quality food and refreshments for visitors and staff.

GBA Chief Commissioner M Maheshwar Rao said the two-storey building will include a self-service system on the ground floor and a service system on the first floor.

"The canteen will benefit officers, staff, and citizens visiting the office. Officials have been instructed to complete the work within the stipulated timeline," he added.

The ceremony was attended by Special Commissioner K Harish Kumar; Central City Corporation Joint Commissioner Hemanth Sharan; executive engineers; Amruth Raj, president of the GBA City Corporations Employees' Association, and other officials.

East Corporation takes custody of 1.4 acres for ITPL road widening

Relinquished properties fall under KR Puram zone

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major exercise, Bengaluru East City Corporation on Friday took possession of 4,150 square metres of relinquished properties from landowners, bringing the total to 1.4 acres.

The relinquished properties were reserved for widening ITPL Main Road, which falls under the corporation's KR Puram zone.

In a statement, Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh said the land was taken in accordance with the Revised Master Plan 2015, which proposes widening the road to 150 feet.

In view of increasing traffic on ITPL Main Road, the corporation plans to widen the road in phases, Ramesh added.

The entities that relinquished land include Indian Oil Corporation Limited (2,045 sqm), Island Star Mall Developers Pvt Ltd (951.45 sqm), Infinix Palladium (351 sqm), and VR Mall (803 sqm).

After taking custody of the land, the corporation installed signboards and directed officials to ensure no encroachments occur.

PRR link plan

The Bengaluru East City Corporation convened a meeting to expedite land acquisition for the proposed road connecting Outer Ring Road to Peripheral Ring Road (PRR).

At a meeting chaired by Additional Commissioner Lokhande Snehal Sudhakar, officials discussed implementing the proposed 24-metre-wide road project via Mahadevapura, Doddanekundi, Pattandur Agrahara, and Nagonahalli.

Town planning officials were instructed to submit approved development plan copies immediately. Executive engineers were directed to take possession of relinquished properties reserved for road widening. Survey department officials were told to inspect the 'kharab' land near goshalas and submit a report.

Coordination with KIADB was directed to complete land acquisition for road widening near the special development zone close to the Seetharampalya metro station.

PRR farmers object to civil tenders without 80% land acquisition

BENGALURU, DHNS: Even as the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) has begun issuing compensation awards to landowners giving up property for the 74-km Peripheral Ring Road (PRR) project, a section of farmers has opposed the move.

They have urged the government to provide compensation in accordance with the Centre's 2013 land acquisition law.

The farmers have also objected to plans to float civil tenders before acquiring at least 80% of the required land.

At a press conference, the farmers said they would issue no-objection certificates (NOCs) only if the government ensured fair compensation. They accused the BDA of bypassing transparency norms to push ahead with a project that has seen little progress over nearly two decades.

In their representation, the farmers contended that the PRR scheme has lapsed under Section 27 of the BDA Act.

"Any scheme not executed within five years of its notification automatically lapses," they said, noting that the PRR was initiated between 2007 and 2012.

"A lapsed scheme cannot be revived or used for tendering," the association stated, demanding that their lands be released from acquisition.

They further alleged that the BDA is planning to invite tenders despite not having acquired the mandatory 80% of the land required for the project, responding to reports that tenders may be floated by the end of March.

The farmers also raised environmental concerns, stating that the proposed 100-metre Right of Way (ROW) passes through the Jarakabande Kaval ecological zone and the Arkavathy River catchment area. They alleged that the BDA is proceeding without obtaining mandatory forest, wildlife, and environmental clearances.

Civic works, crowd curbs dampen Ramadan rush in Fraser Town

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

Known for its vibrant Ramadan stalls and melas, Fraser Town now stands subdued, with a handful of stalls lining the main road this festive season.

Civic works along MM Road and Mosque Road have deterred vendors, while residents have opposed crowding and litter from food stalls. Locals said stall numbers fell 20 per cent between 2025 and 2026.

Civic works in the neighbourhood, which include white-topping, and footpath and underground utility upgrades, began more than a year ago.

"The contractor haphazardly finished the work about 10 days ago," said Shoaib, a restaurant owner, adding that debris has taken up the whole of his parking space.

"They laid the stones in a hurry to cover the visible ditches where underground works were going on, as it was a safety hazard. They have not returned to finish the footpath work. They have dumped cobblestones and other materials along footpaths and on the road," he added.

Civic works, like white-topping, and footpath and underground utility upgrades, began a year ago.
DH PHOTO/ASRA MAVAD

Other business owners echoed Shoaib's concerns.

An official from Bengaluru Smart Infrastructure Limited (B-SMILE), in-charge of the project, said white-topping on MM Road is done and only the footpath work is pending. "It should be done in the next 15-20 days. We are working on multiple civic works in the neighbourhood and new projects are getting approval," the official added.

Drop in footfall

The neighbourhood has recorded a sharp drop in footfall during Ramadan between 2024 and 2026. While weekends draw decent crowds, weekdays no longer witness the 'Ramadan rush', business owners said.

"Weekdays are like any other days. The crowd starts to gather only during the weekends," said Mohammed Shabuddin, a restaurant owner. "We are yet to see the same number of sales as in 2024."

Right now, restaurants already operating on MM Road and Mosque Road are permitted to set up stalls outside their premises.

Saud Dastagir, founder member, Residents for Greater Fraser Town, said people were keen to restrict roadside stalls to those already operating, as that was the only way to control the crowd.

"Things got so much out of hand that we could not step out of our homes during Ramadan due to the crowd and smoke," Dastagir said. "Thankfully, our MLA AC Srinivasa and the police stood by us and denied permission for outsiders to set up stalls here."

14 defaulters clear property tax dues ahead of auction

BENGALURU, DHNS: Fourteen property tax defaulters in the Bommanahalli Zone of Bengaluru South City Corporation cleared dues totaling Rs 27.62 lakh just ahead of a scheduled auction.

Corporation Commissioner KN Ramesh said 50 residential and commercial properties owed a total of Rs 1.08 crore. "We had issued proclamation orders for all the properties," he added.

The 14 owners cleared their dues via challan or online payment, prompting the assistant revenue officers to officially remove their properties from the auction list.

"The remaining 36 defaulters did not pay. Although the auction proceeded, no bidders came forward, leaving it inconclusive," Ramesh said. Preparations are underway for a re-auction.

Health screening flags illness in pourakarmikas

BENGALURU, DHNS: Forty-two per cent of 699 pourakarmikas who underwent a special health check-up were found to have at least one illness. The screening was conducted by the Bengaluru East City Corporation.

The findings pointed to factors such as neglected working conditions, poor lifestyle, and limited access to healthcare.

Among those diagnosed, 91 people had hypertension, 59 cold or cough, 36 diabetes (once described as a rich man's disease), and 10 were found with heart-related issues.

Following the screening, the corporation provided treatment and medical advice.

"Those diagnosed with diabetes, hypertension, and heart-related conditions were advised for further medical follow-up and monitoring," Corporation Commissioner DS Ramesh said. He added that similar camps would be held once every three months.

The camps were conducted at urban primary health centres across Mahadevapura and KR Puram.

Central Corpn designates 90 official feeding spots for stray dogs

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Bengaluru Central City Corporation (BCCC) has identified 90 locations across the city as official feeding spots for stray dogs.

The sites were selected with the welfare of stray dogs, public health, and environmental cleanliness in mind, officials said.

"Signboards displaying the names of the feeding points have been installed at these locations, and the public can feed the dogs there," said Daljit Kumar, Additional Commissioner (Development) of the corporation.

"Systematic feeding can reduce aggressive behavior and biting tendencies by addressing hunger. It also supports neutering initiatives and mass vaccination programmes."

The feeding spots have been designated in all 43 wards across six assembly constituencies: CV Raman Nagar, Chamarajpet, Chickpet, Gandhinagar, Shivajinagar, and Shanthinagar.

BMRCL Managing Director J Ravishankar with senior officials during an inspection of the Pink Line's underground section on Friday. PHOTO: BMRCL

Metro chief inspects Pink Line's underground section

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) Managing Director J Ravishankar on Friday inspected the Pink Line's underground section.

A BMRCL statement said Ravishankar reviewed the progress of station construction, tunnel-related works, track-laying, systems installations, testing timelines and other finishing works.

He directed BMRCL officials, contractors and site engineers to enhance coordination across departments to facilitate the completion of the pending works on time.

The 13.75-km underground metro section — the city's longest — will connect Nagawara in the north to Dairy Circle in the south via MG Road. It has 12 stations.

While tunnelling was completed in December 2024, the BMRCL is undertaking systems works.

Overall progress on the civil work stands at 95%, according to officials.

The Pink Line's 7.5-km elevated section (Kalena Agrahara-Tavarekere) is slated to open in May, while the underground stretch is targeted for completion in December. That will also complete the metro project's Phase 2.

Nigel Fernandes receives rare papal knighthood

BENGALURU, DHNS: Nigel Fernandes, CEO of ATC Publishers and Arclight Global Pvt Ltd, has been honoured with the papal title of Knight of the Order of St Sylvester, one of the highest awards the Catholic Church bestows on laypeople.

The knighthood was formally conferred during the 37th Plenary Assembly of the Conference of Catholic Bishops of India in Bengaluru.

During the ceremony, Archbishop of Bangalore Dr Peter Machado lauded Fernandes for his contributions.

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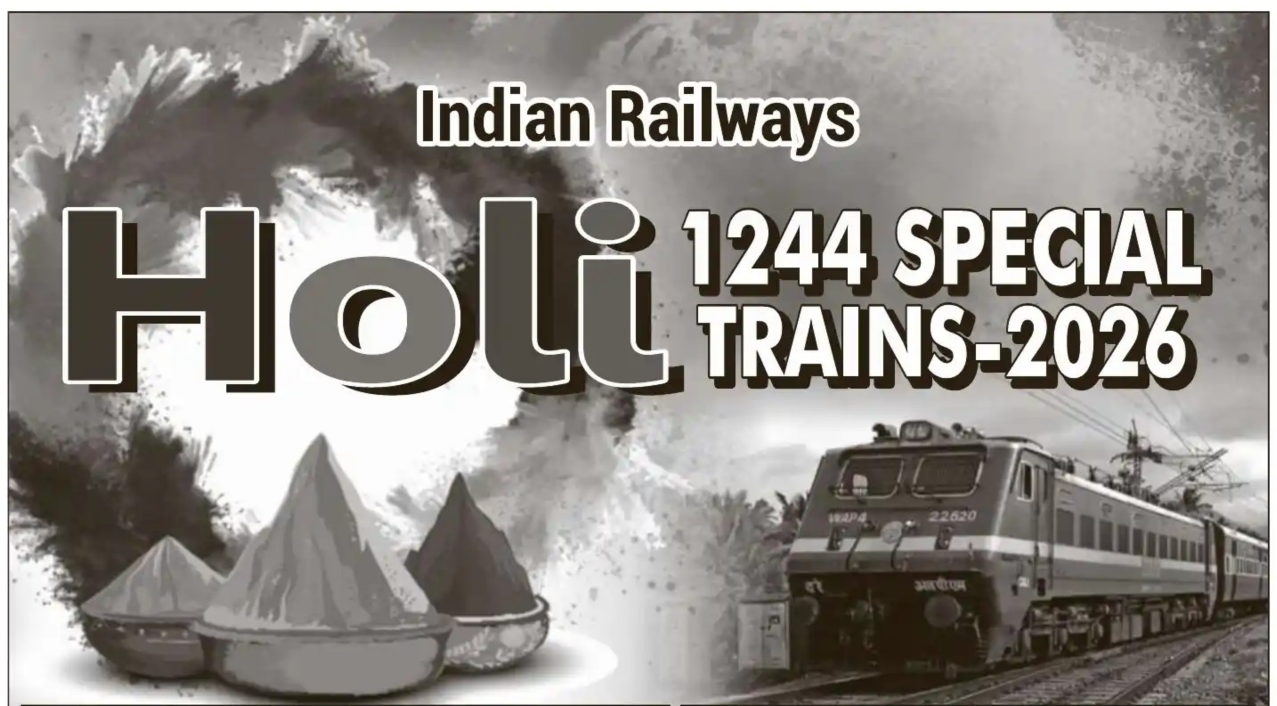

S. No.	TRAIN NO.	FROM STN.	TO STN.	DAY OF RUN
1	01469	Pune Jun.	Nagpur	WED
2	01470	Nagpur Jun.	Pune Jun.	THU
3	01073	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Banaras	WED, THU
4	01074	Banaras	Lokmanya T. Ter.	FRI, SAT
5	01481	Pune Jun.	Danapur Jun.	MON, FRI
6	01482	Danapur Jun.	Pune Jun.	WED, SUN
7	01431	Pune Jun.	Ghazipur City	FRI, TUE
8	01432	Ghazipur City	Pune Jun.	SUN, THU
9	01043	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Samastipur Jun.	TUE
10	01044	Samastipur Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter.	WED
11	01491	Pune Jun.	Hazrat Nizam.	FRI
12	01492	Hazrat Nizam.	Pune Jun.	SAT
13	01079	Chhatra. Shivaji Maharaj T.	Gorakhpur Jun.	DAILY
14	01080	Gorakhpur Jun.	C. Shivaji	DAILY
15	01415	Pune Jun.	Gorakhpur Jun.	DAILY
16	01416	Gorakhpur Jun.	Pune Jun.	DAILY
17	01143	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Danapur Jun.	DAILY
18	01144	Danapur Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter.	DAILY
19	01449	Pune Jun.	Danapur Jun.	DAILY
20	01450	Danapur Jun.	Pune Jun.	DAILY
21	08508	Visakhapatnam	Shalimar	TUE
22	08507	Shalimar	Visakhapatnam	WED
23	08439	Puri	Patna Jun.	SAT
24	08440	Patna Jun.	Puri	SUN
25	02811	Bhubaneswar	Yesvantpur Jun.	SAT
26	02812	Yesvantpur Jun.	Bhubaneswar	MON
27	02832	Bhubaneswar	Dhanbad Jun.	DAILY
28	02831	Bhubaneswar	Dhanbad Jun.	DAILY
29	02563	Barauni Jun.	New Delhi	DAILY
30	02564	New Delhi	Barauni Jun.	DAILY
31	02569	Darbhanga Jun.	New Delhi	DAILY
32	02570	New Delhi	Darbhanga Jun.	DAILY
33	05575	Saharsa Jun,	Anand Vihar T.	WED
34	05576	Anand Vihar T.	Saharsa Jun.	TUE
35	05579	Purnea Court	Anand Vihar T.	MON,TUE,FRI,SUN
36	05580	Anand Vihar T.	Purnea Court	WED,THU,SUN,FRI
37	03293	Patna Jun.	Delhi Jun.	DAILY
38	03294	Delhi Jun.	Patna Jun.	DAILY
39	03697	Saharanpur Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	EXCEPT SUN,THU, WED
40	03698	Anand Vihar T.	Saharanpur Jun.	EXCEPT MON,FRI, THU
41	02397	Saharanpur Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	SUN
42	02398	Anand Vihar T.	Saharanpur Jun.	MON
43	03639	Gaya Jun.	Delhi Jun.	MON,WED,FRI
44	03640	Delhi Jun.	Gaya Jun.	TUE,THU,SAT
45	03309	Dhanbad Jun.	Delhi Jun.	TUE,SAT
46	03310	Delhi Jun.	Dhanbad Jun.	WED,SUN
47	03311	Dhanbad Jun.	Chandigarh	TUE,FRI
48	03312	Chandigarh	Dhanbad Jun.	THU,SUN
49	03379	Dhanbad Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter.	TUE
50	03380	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Dhanbad Jun.	THU
51	03677	Dhanbad Jun.	Gorakhpur Jun.	SUN
52	03678	Gorakhpur Jun.	Dhanbad Jun.	MON
53	03257	Danapur Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	SUN
54	03258	Anand Vihar T.	Danapur Jun.	MON
55	03230	Patna Jun.	Puri	THU
56	03229	Puri	Patna Jun.	FRI
57	03223	Rajgir	Haridwar Jun.	FRI
58	03224	Haridwar Jun.	Rajgir	SAT
59	03221	Rajgir	Anand Vihar T.	MON
60	03222	Anand Vihar T.	Rajgir	WED
61	03251	Danapur Jun.	Sir M. Visvesvaraya T.	DAILY
62	03252	Sir M. Visvesvaraya T. Bengaluru	Bengaluru	DAILY
63	03225	Danapur Jun.	Charkhi Dadri	THU
64	03226	Charkhi Dadri	Danapur Jun.	SUN
65	03253	Patna Jun.	Charkhi Dadri	MON,WED
66	07855/56	Charkhi Dadri	Patna Jun.	WED,FRI
67	02024	Patna Jun.	Howrah Jun.	SUN
68	02023	Howrah Jun.	Patna Jun.	SUN
69	05559	Raxaul Jun.	Udhna Jun.	SAT
70	05560	Udhna Jun.	Raxaul Jun.	SUN
71	05557	Raxaul Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter	TUE
72	05558	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Raxaul Jun.	THU
73	05585	Saharsa Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter	FRI
74	05586	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Saharsa Jun.	SUN
75	05219	Muzaffarpur Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	FRI
76	05220	Anand Vihar T.	Muzaffarpur Jun.	SAT
77	05559	Raxaul Jun.	Udhna Jun.	SAT
78	05560	Udhna Jun.	Raxaul Jun.	SUN
79	03043	Howrah Jun.	Raxaul Jun.	SA,SU,M,
80	03044	Raxaul Jun.	Howrah Jun.	SU,M,TU,
81	03183	Sealdah	Madhubani	AS ON DATE
82	03184	Madhubani	Sealdah	AS ON DATE
83	3185/87	Kolkata	Madhubani	AS ON DATE
84	3186/88	Madhubani	Kolkata	AS ON DATE
85	03525	Asansol Jun.	Gorakhpur Jun.	AS ON DATE
86	03526	Gorakhpur Jun.	Asansol Jun.	AS ON DATE
87	03527	Asansol Jun.	Gorakhpur Jun.	AS ON DATE
88	03528	Gorakhpur Jun.	Asansol Jun.	AS ON DATE
89	03009	Dankuni	Anand Vihar T.	AS ON DATE
90	03010	Anand Vihar T.	Dankuni	AS ON DATE
91	03435	Malda Town	Anand Vihar T.	AS ON DATE
92	03436	Anand Vihar T.	Malda Town	AS ON DATE
93	03007	Howrah Jun.	Katwa	AS ON DATE
94	03008	Katwa	Howrah Jun.	AS ON DATE
95	03129	Kolkata	New Jalpaiguri	AS ON DATE
96	03130	New Jalpaiguri	Kolkata	AS ON DATE
97	03101	Sealdah Malda Town	Malda Town	AS ON DATE
98	03102	Malda Town	Sealdah	AS ON DATE
99	03417	Malda Town	Udhna Jun.	AS ON DATE
100	03418	Udhna Jun.	Malda Town	AS ON DATE
101	04101	Prayagraj Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter	MON
102	04102	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Prayagraj Jun.	TUE
103	02199	Veerangana Lakshmibai Jhansi	Bandra Term.	Thu
104	02200	Bandra Term.	V. Lakshmibai Jhansi	Sat
105	02275	Prayagraj Sangam	Shakur Basti	Mon
106	02276	Shakur Basti	Prayagraj Sangam	Tue
107	02421	Prayagraj Sangam	Shakur Basti	Sun
108	02422	Shakur Basti	Prayagraj Sangam	Mon
109	04121	Prayagraj Sangam	Charkhi Dadri	Thu
110	04122	Charkhi Dadri	Prayagraj Sangam	Sat
111	04125	Prayagraj Sangam	Bandra Term.	Mon
112	04126	Bandra Term.	Prayagraj Sangam	Tue
113	04151	Kanpur Central	Bandra Term.	Fri
114	04152	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Prayagraj Sangam	Sat
115	04123	Prayagraj Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter	WED,SAT
116	04124	Hazrat Nizam.	Kanpur Central	THU, MON
117	05045	Lalkuan Jun.	Hazrat Nizam.	SUN
118	05046	Rajkot Jun.	Prayagraj Jun.	MON
119	05060	Lalkuan Jun.	Rajkot Jun.	THU
120	05059	Kolkata	Lalkuan Jun.	SAT
121	05301	Mau Jun.	Kolkata	THU
122	05302	Ambala Cantt Jun.	Lalkuan Jun.	FRI
123	05005	Behrampur	Ambala Cantt Jun.	WED
124	05006	Amritsar Jun.	Mau Jun.	THU
125	05023	Gomti Nagar	Amritsar Jun.	TUE
126	05024	Katwa	Berhampore	WED
127	05017	Mau Jun.	Katwa	SAT
128	05018	Valsad	Gomti Nagar	SUN
129	05932	Dibrugarh	Valsad	SAT
130	05931	Kolkata	Mau Jun.	MON
131	05633	Nangal Dam	Kolkata	THU
132	05634	Gorakhpur Jun.	Dibrugarh	FRI
133	05736	Katihar Jun.	Gorakhpur Jun.	WED
134	05735	Amritsar Jun.	Nangal Dam	FRI
135	05974	Dibrugarh	Amritsar Jun.	TUE
136	05973	Jayngar	Puri	WED
137	05628	Agartala	Katihar Jun.	THU
138	05627	Guwahati	Jaynagar Dibrugarh	FRI
139	04209	New Delhi	Guwahati	5 days a week
140	04210	Varanasi Jun.	Agartala	5 days a week
141	04213	Ayodhya Cantt	Varanasi Jun.	Tri-weekly
142	04214	Anand Vihar T.	New Delhi	Tri-weekly
143	04227	Varanasi Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	Bi-weekly
144	04228	Chandigarh	Ayodhya Cantt.	Bi-weekly
145	04203	Lucknow	Chandigarh	MON
146	04204	New Delhi	Varanasi Jun.	MON
147	04052	New Delhi	New Delhi	Daily
148	04051	Howrah Jun.	Lucknow	Daily
149	04022	New Delhi	Howrah Jun.	Weekly
150	04021	Gorakhpur Jun.	New Delhi	Weekly
151	04054	New Delhi	Gorakhpur Jun.	Daily
152	04053	Barauni Jun.	New Delhi	Daily
153	04014	Anand Vihar T.	Barauni Jun.	Daily
154	04013	Lucknow	New Delhi	Daily
155	04070	Anand Vihar T.	Lucknow	FRI,TUE
156	04069	Saharanpur Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	FRI,TUE
157	04060	Anand Vihar T.	Saharanpur Jun.	Daily
158	04059	Saharsa Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	Daily
159	04010	Delhi Jun.	Saharsa Jun.	THUS
160	04009	Sitamarhi Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	FRI
161	04066	Anand Vihar T.	Sitamarhi Jun.	Daily
162	04065	Puri	Delhi Jun.	Daily
163	04614	Amritsar Jun.	Anand Vihar T.	Weekly
164	04613	Katihar Jun.	Amritsar Jun.	Weekly
165	04652	Amritsar Jun,	Jaynagar	Bi-weekly
166	04651	Jayngar	Amritsar Jun.	Bi-weekly
167	04616	Firozpur Cantt	Danapur Jun.	Weekly
168	04615	Danapur Jun.	Firozpur Cantt	Weekly
169	04610	Amritsar Jun.	Maner	Bi-weekly
170	04609	Maner	Amritsar Jun.	Bi-weekly
171	04302	Haridwar Jun.	Muzaffarpur Jun	Tri-weekly
172	04301	Muzaffarpur Jun.	Haridwar Jun.	Tri-weekly
173	04312	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	Kolkata	Tri-weekly
174	04311	Kolkata	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	Tri-weekly
175	04514	Chandigarh	Gorakhpur Jun.	Weekly
176	04513	Gorakhpur Jun.	Chandigarh	Weekly
177	04002	New Delhi	Dadar Western	Bi-weekly
178	04001	Dadar Western	New Delhi	Bi-weekly
179	04226	Varanasi Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter	Bi-weekly
180	04225	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Varanasi Jun.	Bi-weekly
181	04212	Sultanpur Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter	Bi-weekly
182	04211	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Sultanpur Jun.	Bi-weekly
183	04414	Hazrat Nizam.	Mathura Jun.	DAILY
184	04413	Mathura Jun.	Hazrat Nizam.	DAILY
185	04412	Tilak Bridge	Bareilly Jun.	DAILY
186	04411	Bareilly Jun.	Tilak Bridge	DAILY
187	04715	Bikaner Jun.	Sainagar Shirdi	Sat
188	04716	Sainagar Shirdi	Bikaner Jun.	Sun
189	04725	Hisar Jun.	Karnal	Sun
190	04726	Karnal	Hisar Jun.	Mon
191	04727	Hisar Jun.	Valsad	Wed
192	04728	Valsad	Hisar Jun.	Thu
193	04827	Bhagat Ki Kothi	Bandra Term.	Sat
194	04828	Bandra Term.	Bhagat Ki Kothi	Sun
195	09621	Ajmer Jun.	Bandra Term.	Sun
196	09622	Bandra Term.	Ajmer Jun.	Mon
197	09705	Jaipur Jun.	Bandra Term.	SUN
198	09706	Bandra Term.	Jaipur Jun.	MON
199	04829	Jodhpur Jun.	Gorakhpur Jun.	FRI
200	04830	Gorakhpur Jun.	Jodhpur Jun.	THU
201	7091/95/95	Charkhi Dadri	Danapur Jun.	AS ON DATE
202	07092	Danapur Jun.	Charkhi Dadri	AS ON DATE
203	07119	Charkhi Dadri	Madan Mahal	AS ON DATE
204	07120	Madan Mahal	Charkhi Dadri	AS ON DATE
205	07512	Charkhi Dadri	Shalimar	AS ON DATE
206	07513	Shalimar	Chandigarh	AS ON DATE
207	07005	Charkhi Dadri	Raxaul Jun.	MON
208	07006	Raxaul Jun.	Charkhi Dadri	THU
209	07051	Tirupati	Raxaul Jun.	SAT
210	07052	Raxaul Jun.	Tirupati	TUE
211	07046	Secunderabad Jun.	Naharlagun	SAT
212	07047	Naharlagun	Secunderabad Jun.	TUE
213	07023	Charkhi Dadri	Hazrat Nizam.	SUN
214	07024	Hazrat Nizam.	Charkhi Dadri	TUE
215	07615	Charkhi Dadri	Tiruchirappalli Jun.	TUE
216	07616	Tiruchchirappalli Jun.	Charkhi Dadri	WED
217	08185	Hatia	Durg Jun.	TU, THU
218	08186	Durg Jun.	Hatia	WED, FRI
219	08007	Shalimar	Virpur	THU, SAT
220	08008	Virpur	Shalimar	MON, SAT
221	08011	Virpur	Puri	THU, SAT
222	08012	Puri	Virpur	FRI, SUN
223	02839	Shalimar	Puri	SUN
224	02840	Puri	Shalimar	MON
225	02847	Santragachi Jun.	Digha	SAT
226	02848	Digha	Santragachi Jun.	SAT
227	02897	Santragachi Jun.	Digha	SUN
228	02898	Digha	Santragachi Jun.	SUN
229	02863	Santragachi Jun.	Yelahanka Jun.	THU,
230	02864	Yelahanka Jun.	Santragachi Jun.	SAT
231	02841	Shalimar	MGR Chennai Central	MON
232	02842	M. G. Ramachandran Central	Shalimar	WED,
233	08611	Santragachi Jun.	Ajmer Jun.	MON
234	08612	Ajmer Jun.	Santragachi Jun.	THU
235	08629	Ranchi Jun.	Gorakhpur Jun.	MON
236	08630	Gorakhpur Jun.	Ranchi Jun.	WED
237	08181	Tatanagar Jun.	Katihar Jun.	MON
238	08182	Katihar Jun.	Tatanagar Jun.	TUE
239	08109	Santragachi Jun.	Darbhanga Jun.	TUE
240	08110	Darbhanga Jun.	Santragachi Jun.	TUE
241	08183	Tatanagar Jun.	Buxar	TUE
242	08184	Buxar	Tatanagar Jun.	WED
243	08105	Ranchi Jun.	Jaynagar	MON
244	08106	Krishnarajapuram	Ranchi Jun.	TUE
245	08263	Bilaspur Jun.	Hyderabad	FRI
246	08264	Hyderabad Deccan	Deccan Bilaspur Jun.	MON
247	08861	Gondia Jun.	Patna Jun.	SUN
248	08862	Patna Jun.	Gondia Jun.	THU
249	08751	Durg Jun.	Hazrat Nizam.	SAT
250	08752	Hazrat Nizam.	Durg Jun.	SUN
251	8863/65	Gondia Jun.	Chhapra Jun.	SUN
252	8864/65	Chhapra Jun.	Gondia Jun.	THU
253	08753	Durg Jun.	Madhubani	SUN
254	08754	Madhubani	Durg Jun.	THU
255	06019	M. G. Ramachandran Central	Hazrat Nizam.	MON
256	06020	Hazrat Nizam.	MGR Chennai Central	THU
257	06085	Ernakulam Jun.	Muzaffarpur Jun.	FRI
258	06086	Muzaffarpur Jun.	Ernakulam Jun.	MON
259	06039	M. G. Ramachandran Central	Barauni Jun.	SUN
260	06040	Barauni Jun.	MGR Chennai Central	WED
261	06077	M. G. Ramachandran Central	Santragachi Jun	SAT
262	06078	Santragachi Jun.	MGR Chennai Central	MON
263	06081	Thiruvananthapuram North	Santragachi Jun	FRI
264	06082	Santragachi Jun.	Thiruvananthapuram North	MON
265	06181	Coimbatore Jun.	Jaipur Jun.	THU
266	06182	Jaipur Jun.	Coimbatore Jun.	SUN
267	06565	Sir M. Visvesvaraya T. Bengaluru	Malda Town	SUN
268	06566	Malda Town	Sir M. Visvesvaraya T.	WED
269	06563	Yesvantpur Jun.	Bengaluru	SAT
270	06564	Dhanbad Jun.	Dhanbad Jun.	MON
271	06597	Yesvantpur Jun.	Yesvantpur Jun.	THU
272	06598	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	Yog Nagari Rishikesh	SAT
273	06281	Mysuru Jun.	Yesvantpur Jun.	SAT
274	06282	Ajmer Jun.	Ajmer Jun.	MON
275	02134	Jabalpur Jun.	Mysuru Jun.	FRI
276	02133	Bandra Term.	Bandra Term.	SAT
277	01665	Rani Kamlapati	Jabalpur Jun.	THU
278	01666	Agartala	Agartala Rani	SUN
279	02132	Jabalpur Jun.	Kamalapati	SUN
280	02131	Pune Jun.	Pune Jun.	MON
281	02198	Jabalpur Jun.	Jabalpur Jun.	FRI
282	02197	Coimbatore Jun.	Coimbatore Jun.	MON
283	02134	Jabalpur Jun.	Jabalpur Jun.	FRI
284	02133	Bandra Term.	Bandra Term.	SAT
285	02187	Rewa	Jabalpur Jun.	THU
286	02188	Chhatra S. Maharaj T.	Chhatra. S. Maharaj T.	FRI
287	09801	Kota Jun,	Rewa	MON
288	09802	Mathura Jun.	Mathura Jun.	TUE
289	09803	Kota Jun.	Kota Jun.	WED
290	09804	Radha- kishanpur	Radhakishanpur	THU
291	09805	Kota Jun.	Kota Jun.	SUN, TUE
292	09806	Jabalpur Jun.	Jabalpur Jun.	MON, WED
293	09185	Mumbai Central	Kota Jun.	SUN
294	09186	Kanpur Anwarganj	Kanpur Jun.	MON
295	09189	Mumbai Central	Anwarganj	SAT
296	09190	Katihar Jun.	Mumbai Central	TUE
297	09183	Mumbai Central	Katihar Jun.	WED
298	09184	Banaras	Mumbai Central	FRI
299	09025	Valsad	Banaras	MON
300	09026	Danapur Jun.	Mumbai Central	TUE
301	09111	Vadodara Jun.	Danapur Jun.	MON
302	91112	Gorakhpur Jun.	Valsad Gorakhpur J.	WED
303	09195	Vadodara Jun.	Vadodara Jun.	SAT
304	09196	Mau Jun.	Mau Jun.	SUN
305	09343	Dr. Ambed. Ngr.	Vadodara Jun.	TUE
306	09344	Patna Jun.	Patna Jun.	WED
307	09309	Indore Jun.	Dr. Ambed. Ngr.	FRI,SUN
308	09310	Hazrat Nizam.	Hazrat Nizam.	SAT, MON
309	09425	Sabarmati Jun.	Indore Jun.	MON
310	09426	Haridwar Jun.	Haridwar Jun.	TUE
311	09065	Surat	Sabarmati Jun.	MON
312	09066	Chhapra Jun.	Chhapra Jun.	WED
313	09447	Ahmedabad Jun.	Surat Patna Jun.	WED
314	09448	Patna Jun.	Ahmedabad Jun.	FRI
315	09465	Ahmedabad Jun.	Darbhanga Jun.	FRI
316	09466	Darbhanga Jun.	Ahmedabad Jun.	MON
317	09451	Gandhidham Jun.	Bhagalpur Gandhidham J.	FRI
318	09452	Bhagalpur	Indore Jun.	MON
319	09085	Mumbai Central	Mumbai Central	MON,WED,FRI
320	09086	Indore Jun.	Hamirpur	TUE,THUS,SAT
323	09031	Udhna Jun.	Udhna Jun.	SUN
324	09032	Hamirpur	Bikaner Jun.	TUE
325	09271	Bhavnagar Term.	Bhavnagar Term.	SUN
326	09272	Bikaner Jun.	Madgaon Jun.	MON
327	01004	Madgaon Jun.	Lokmanya T. Ter	W, F, SU
328	01003	Lokmanya T. Ter.	Madgaon Jun.	THU, SA, M
329	01160	Chiplun	Diva Jun.	DAILY
330	01159	Diva Jun.	Chiplun	DAILY

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Valentine's Day drug-rape case: Lover, his friend arrested

Probing the incident from all angles, say police

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Amruthahalli police arrested a 21-year-old man and his friend for allegedly raping a 19-year-old college student at a rented villa in Jakkur.

The complainant told the police the incident occurred during a Valentine's Day party.

She said she lost consciousness after consuming a beverage and was later sexually assaulted by her boyfriend and his friend. She lodged a complaint on February 22.

However, a day before she filed the complaint, the suspects had approached the Malleswaram police, alleging that she attempted to extort money by making false accusations and threatening to approach a news channel.

A senior police officer said the suspects were absconding for five days. Acting on a tip-off, a special team secured them from Nelamangala and subjected them to medical tests on Friday before taking them into custody for interrogation.

"We are probing from all angles. It is too early to reveal whether they were involved in similar offences earlier. If any other victims come forward, we will look into those complaints. As of now, only one victim has filed a case against them," a police officer said.

16 drug peddlers held in major crackdown; drugs worth Rs 5.24 cr seized

BENGALURU, DHNS

In a major crackdown, 16 drug peddlers, including two women, were arrested and narcotics worth Rs 5.24 crore have been seized.

The Anti-Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch and the city police carried out the operation.

Police seized MDMA, ecstasy pills, ganja and hydro ganja with an estimated market value of Rs 5.24 crore.

In one case, the CCB arrested a 43-year-old woman within the Bagalur police station limits for allegedly assisting a Nigerian national in drug trafficking across the city. The accused was identified as NK Subhashini, a resident of Puttanna Layout.

During investigation, police found that she was aiding a Nigerian citizen in storing and supplying narcotics from her rented house.

Acting on his instructions, she would deliver the stored drugs to customers at designated locations, a police officer said.

MP native, local man held for illegal arms trade

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Crime Branch (CCB) arrested two people for allegedly procuring and supplying a pistol and 50 live cartridges in the city.

The accused were identified as Syed Masood, 26, a resident of Siddapura and a sheep trader, and Javed Alam, 19, from Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh.

Police said Masood allegedly procured a 0.32 mm pistol from Alam without a valid licence.

Acting on credible information, the CCB registered a case under the Arms Act, launched an investigation and seized one 0.32 mm pistol and 50 live cartridges from the suspects.

During interrogation, Masood said he had purchased the pistol for self defence and paid Alam Rs 45,000. Further investigation revealed that another accused, an associate of Alam, is absconding, a senior police officer said.

Two passengers arrested for smuggling wild birds from Thailand

BENGALURU, DHNS

One of the seven birds that was confiscated at the Kempegowda International Airport on Thursday.

Customs and forest department officials apprehended two passengers attempting to smuggle wild birds through the Kempegowda International Airport (KIA) on Thursday.

The accused — Mohammed Usman, 27, and Arfath Sharieff, 25 — were intercepted based on profiling and specific intelligence gathered by officers of the Air Intelligence Unit (C-Batch) of Airport Customs, Bengaluru, according to an official statement.

Usman and Sharieff had arrived from Phuket, Thailand, carrying seven wild birds: one rhinoceros hornbill, two black sicklebills, two greater lophorinas, and two red birds-of-paradise.

They were arrested for violating provisions of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. A wildlife offence case was registered at the Range Forest Office in Devanahalli on Friday.

Last month, forest officials were deployed alongside customs personnel at the Bengaluru airport for the first time to strengthen efforts against wildlife trafficking.

At present, four Deputy Range Forest Officers are stationed at the airport year-round.

Over the past year, customs authorities have registered 22 cases involving the illegal import and export of wild animals from Southeast Asian countries, primarily Thailand and Malaysia. Of these, 19 cases involved imports and three involved exports. Commonly trafficked species include gibbons, iguanas and various birds.

India Deaf Expo draws 1,500 participants at Mount Carmel College

BENGALURU, DHNS: 'Blue Festival' at Mount Carmel College celebrated the achievements of persons with disabilities when given an enabling platform.

The two-day event marked the ninth edition of the India Deaf Expo and Conference, organised by the Deaf Leaders Foundation, and drew over 1,500 participants.

The highlight was the national deaf exhibition featuring 60 stalls. Visitors explored products made by persons with disabilities, including handmade crafts and creative drawings, bags, garments and stationery, as well as home cooked snacks and gift items.

Beyond the exhibition, the 'Deaf Got Talent' and 'Deaf Pageant' shows provided a stage for participants to present their artistic skills.

During the conference, experts, leaders and representatives from the Indian Red Cross Society discussed ways to improve implementation of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act to strengthen access to education, healthcare and employment.

Director K Murali said the festival aims to mobilise national support for the dignity and wellbeing of all deaf people.

Toastmasters Speechcraft

BENGALURU, DHNS: Toastmasters Speechcraft will hold a seven-week hands-on workshop on public speaking and communication.

The workshop will be held from March 8 at Daffodils Toastmasters Club, Malleswaram.

The workshop cultivates confident speakers and guides them in goal setting.

For details, contact: 9119422950/9513850101.

BMRCL hosts Electrical Working Group meeting of metro organisations

BENGALURU, DHNS: Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) hosted the second meeting of the Electrical Working Group (EWG) of the Indian Metro Rail Organisations Society (I-Metro) in the city on February 26 and 27.

I-Metro was constituted by the Centre as a collaborative platform for metro rail corporations across the country to share knowledge, experience, technical expertise, innovations and best practices in urban rail transport. It also aims to address technical, statutory and administrative challenges faced by metro organisations, while working collectively to enhance system performance and operational excellence.

Twenty-two delegates from 16 metro rail organisations participated in the two-day meeting. Deliberations focused on key electrical sub-systems, including traction systems, lifts and escalators, air-conditioning and tunnel ventilation systems.

The discussions emphasised improving operational efficiency, enhancing reliability, optimising project timelines, and addressing emerging challenges in metro rail implementation and maintenance, BMRCL said.

CORRIGENDUM NO. 1

Corrigendum No. 1 for Tender Notice No.: Mech-LMG-ET-14-2025-26; dtd.: 19-02-2026. Name of the work : Turnkey contract for the work of Supply, Installation, Commissioning of Plant/ Equipment & Related Infrastructure and Operation of Mechanized Laundry at Badarpur, Collection of soiled linen from coaches from Agartala, Silchar, Sairang Railway station and loading of washed linen into coaches at Agartala, Silchar, Sairang Railway station for a period of 10 years under BOOT (Build- Own - Operate- Transfer) Basis and Transportation of linen from BOOT Laundry to nominated Stations including onboard distribution of linen to passenger, blanket repair & stitching of curtains. **Tender Closing Date: 13:00** hrs. on **30-03-2026**. Details are as under:-

Items Modified : NIT Header

Field Name	Existing Value	Modified Value
Pre-Bid Query Date/ Time	06/03/2026 11:00	09/03/2026 11:00

New Items Added: Documents

S.No.	Document Description	File Name
1	Modified Tender Document	ApprovedTD2.pdf

For Detail please visit N.F. Railway website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. DME/Lumding

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

IMPLEMENTATION OF GROUND MOUNTED GRID CONNECTED SOLAR PV SYSTEM

E-Tender Notice No.: EL/29/08_2026/K/1726 Dated: 24-02-2026. E-Tenders are invited by the undersigned for the following works: **Tender No.: 08_2026. Name of work:** At New Jalpaiguri: Implementation of ground mounted grid connected solar PV system of project of 1MWp capacity at Dy.CMM/ New Jalpaiguri Store Depot campus, N.F. Railway, New Jalpaiguri, W.B. through Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Design, build, operation and transfer ("the DBFOT") basis under RESCO model. **Tender Value:** ₹16,50,72,999/-. **Earnest Money:** ₹10,68,000/-. **Date & time of closing of tender:** At **15:00** hrs. & opening on **15:30** hrs. on **18-03-2026.** The complete information with the tender document of above e-tender will be available on website **www.ireps.gov.in**

Sr. DEE/G&Chg, Katihar

NORTHEAST FRONTIER RAILWAY
Serving Customers With A Smile

Metro Railway, Kolkata
CORRIGENDUM

Corrigendum-2 against **Open Tender Notice No. S&T/Works/08-2024-Retender-2. Name of Works:** Replacement of Passenger Announcement System (PAS) and Passenger Information Display System (PIDS) in Blue line of Metro Railway, Kolkata. **Items Modified- NIT Header: Field Name:** Tender Closing Date and Time. **Existing Value:** 06.03.2026, 15.00 hrs. **Modified Value:** 16.03.2026, 15.00 hrs.

Asstt. Signal & Telecom Engineer/Tele

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S. E. RAILWAY – TENDER

For and on behalf of President of India, the Divisional Railway Manager (Engg.), South Eastern Railway, Kharagpur-721301 invites e-Tender for the following works before 15:00hrs on the date mentioned against items and will be opened at 15:30 hrs.: **Sl. No.; Tender No.; Description of work; Tender Value & Earnest Money** respectively : **(1); E-KGP-HQ-05-2026;** (i) Construction of boundary wall on 3rd Avenue, and (ii) Repair & renovation of South Institute Auditorium Hall at Kharagpur under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Settlement/ Kharagpur; ₹ 77,69,999.79; ₹ 155400.00. **(2); E-KGP-HQ-06-2026;** Treatment to leaky roof at Golekhuli Quarters and 4 No. traffic colony for 348 units (216 of Golekhuli Type-I Quarters & 132 units of 4 No. traffic colony type-II quarters) in the section of SSE(W)/North-East/ Kharagpur under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Settlememnt/Kharagpur; ₹ 1,19,70,591.29; ₹ 2,09,900.00; **(3); E-KGP-HQ-07-2026;** Improvement to Road surface by providing Rubberised materials at 84 no. of LCs in Panskura-Haldia and Tamluk-Digha section under the jurisdiction of ADEN/Tamluk; ₹ 8,82,55,455.60; ₹ 5,91,300.00; **Tender Document Cost :** ₹ 0.00 (for Sl. No. 1 to 3); **Date of opening :** 17/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 1 & 2) & 23/03/2026 (for Sl. No. 3); **Completion period of the work :** 12 Months (for Sl. No. 1 to 3); **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 01, 02 from 03/03/2026 and up to 15:00 hrs on 17/03/2026; **Bidding Start Date:** For Sl. No. 03 from 09/03/2026 and up to 15:00 hrs on 23/03/2026; Interested tenderers may visit website **www.ireps.gov.in** for full details/descriptions/specifications of the tenders and submit their bids online. In no case manual tenders for these works will be accepted. **N.B.:** Prospective bidders may regularly visit **"www.ireps.gov.in"** to participate in all tenders. **(PR-1244)**

STATE HIGHWAYS AUTHORITY OF JHARKHAND
Government of Jharkhand
e-procurement Notice inviting RFP for
Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC)

Ref No: SHAJ/Proc/CW/Vivekanand Sch-Ring Road/2025/146 **Date: 27.02.2026**

1. State Highways Authority of Jharkhand, Ranchi invites Request for Proposal for Engineering Procurement & Construction basis from eligible bidders for **"Widening & Strengthening/New Construction to Six Lane Divided Carriageway with service road, Cycle Track and footpath of Vivekanand School More to Ring Road via Jharkhand High Court & Jharkhand Vidhan Sabha Road (Length-6.089 km) & Widening & Strengthening to Two Lane with Paved Shoulder of Link Road from Naya Sarai ROB to Ring Road (Length-2.12km) (Total Length-8.209 km) on EPC mode**. The approximate cost of the work is Rs. **235.39** Crore.
2. The interested bidders who have experience in execution of similar works and required technical & financial strength may obtain Request for Proposal (RFP) document for Engineering, Procurement & Construction document from e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in from **10.03.2026 (03:30 P.M.) to 08.04.2026 (upto 12:30 P.M.).**
The complete RFP Application shall be submitted online by **08.04.2026 (upto 12:30 PM)** on e-tendering portal www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in All the details regarding this RFP will be available on the above mentioned website. It will opened on **09.04.2026 (at 12:30 PM).**
3. The contractors are required to submit non-refundable **Tender Fee** of Rs. 50,000/- (Rs. Fifty thousand only) & **Bid Security (EMD)** of Rs. 2.36 crore (Rs. Two Crore Thirty Six Lakh) only. Tender fees and Earnest money Deposit(EMD) shall be deposited online as per Information technology & E-Governance Department order no 120 dated 03.10.2023.
4. ***No claim shall be entertained on account of disruption of internet services being used by bidders. Bidders are advised to upload their bids well in advance to avoid last minute technical snag. The cost of the work and Bid Security (EMD) may change.***

Sd/-
Member (Technical)
State Highways Authority of Jharkhand
Deen Dayal Nagar
(Near Office of Executive Engineer, NH Division, Ranchi)
Booty Road, Ranchi-834008. Ph.: 0651-2361306,
E-mail: membertechnical.shaj3@gmail.com

PR 373741 State Highway Authority of Jharkhand (25-26)_D

◆ IN THE CITY ◆

GENERAL

Round Table Meeting: On the 'Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishtan (VBSA) Bill' by Bharatiya Shikshan Mandal; The Mythic Society; 9 am.

National Science Day & Open Day: Commemorating the discovery of the 'Raman Effect; Science exhibition and campus visit; Raman Research Institute; 10 am to 4 pm.

Photography Exhibition: Release of Srinivasa Murthy NS's book 'Ramaniya Rajasthan' by NTML Group; Ishapriya Theertha Swamiji, Vinayak Joshi to attend; Devaraj Urs Gallery, Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath; 10.30 am.

Programme: Birth anniversary of Morarji Desai and discussion meeting by Janata Party; MP Nadagouda, Srinivas S to attend; Legislative Council Hall, Vidhana Soudha, 11.30 am.

CULTURAL

Nrityarpane: Varsha N Kumar; Guru: Nagabhushana by Aradhana Dance School; Krishna Byregowda, N Shivashankar to attend; Ravindra Kalakshetra; 5 pm.

Film songs singing: ATM Team, Kalabhoomi; Bengaluru South Corporation Office premises, JP Nagar; 5.30 pm.

Play: 'Sadannag Saayde Hodre?!, by Side Wing troupe; BP Wadia Auditorium; 7.30 pm.

Invites to be published in this column should be sent to: **incitytoday@deccanherald.co.in.** Please note that hard copies will not be accepted

◆ CITY WEATHER ◆

FORECAST

Partly cloudy sky becoming generally cloudy towards afternoon or evening or night

TEMPERATURES

Maximum	32.6°C
Minimum	21.3°C
Rainfall (as of 8:30 am)	--
Humidity (as of 5:30 pm)	44%
Sunset (Feb 28)	6:28 pm
Sunrise (March 1)	6:37 am
Moonrise	2:39 pm
Moonset	3:03 am

(Relevant data recorded at 5.30 pm) Source: IMD

To prevent losses, PU Edu Dept to collect orders for textbooks in advance

BENGALURU, DHNS: As part of its efforts to streamline the textbook distribution system, the Department of School Education and Literacy has decided to collect orders from pre-university colleges months before the start of the next academic year.

All PU colleges, including government-aided and unaided institutions, have been asked to submit an indent on the number of textbooks each of them requires, based on which the Department of PU Education will, in turn, issue the order for the printing of textbooks.

Colleges must pay an advance, besides compulsorily submitting the indent online. Subject-wise and title-wise requirements must be clearly laid out in the indent, which is to be uploaded on the Student Achievement Tracking System (SATS).

Printing will begin only once colleges pay the amount fixed by the Karnataka Textbook Society (KTBS) in advance, the PU Education Department has said.

Given that most students do not purchase their textbooks through official channels, and prefer purchasing them on the market, many textbooks printed by KTBS were being discarded since the department did not have information on the specific requirement of each college. Consequently, the department was left clutching losses with many textbooks going unsold. Given that an indent for textbooks is sought from schools for classes one through ten, the PU Education Department has decided to follow the same system to prevent losses.

The PU Education Department Director and Managing Director of KTBS have been given the green light to proceed with the new system, while Deputy Directors of the PU Department in each district have been instructed to inform all colleges about the same. Should a college have no requirement for these textbooks, the concerned principal must submit a zero indent.

Gubbalala SWD encroachment: HC directs reinspection today

Petitioners told to suggest alternative route within 15 days

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Karnataka High Court has directed the BBMP (now the Greater Bengaluru Authority) to conduct a reinspection on Saturday and reconsider the diversion of storm water drains to ensure the free flow of water into Subramanyapura Lake at Gubbalala village in Bengaluru South taluk.

Justice R Nataraj issued the direction while dismissing two petitions filed by the Mantri Tranquil Apartments Owners Association along with Mantri Developers Private Limited and the Royal Palms Residents' Welfare Association.

The petitioners have constructed buildings in survey numbers 7, 9, 11 and 13 of Gubbalala village.

"It is made clear that if the petitioners do not provide an alternative course for the drains to be laid within 15 days from February 28, the BBMP shall take necessary measures to restore the drains as per the report of the expert committee constituted by the state government," Justice Nataraj said in his order.

The court observed: "Having regard to the fact that Subramanyapura Lake is a live lake and Gubbalala village has a catchment area of nearly one square kilometre, in the interest of the general public residing in the area, this court considers it appropriate to provide an opportunity to the petitioners to suggest an alternative course for restoration of the storm water drains. Failing this, the municipal corporation is directed to remove the constructions put up over the storm water drains and restore them, and, if possible, erect RCC retaining walls of the drain to the desired size."

The petitioners challenged the action initiated by the BBMP based on a report by an expert committee, which concluded that the SWDs carrying water from the catchment area into Subramanyapura Lake had been blocked. They contended that there was no mention of any SWD in the Comprehensive Development Plan (CDP), 1995, and that no authority had indicated the existence of SWDs while sanctioning the building plans.

On the other hand, the BBMP submitted that in a PIL, a division bench had specifically directed the removal of all encroachments over storm water drains in Bengaluru. According to the civic body, the Gubbalala village map clearly indicates the presence of SWDs. It argued that both the village map and the survey report show the exact location and measurements of the drains and the encroached portions.

JUSTICE R NATARAJ

"We have to thank the British for the topographical survey and the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, which they conducted on donkeys' backs using basic equipment, giving us a document that continues to be a beacon for survey and revenue administration for over a hundred years. It is unfortunate that, despite technological advancements, we are unable to conduct a second general survey in the State of Karnataka.

The court noted that the area's topography, as reflected in the hydrological report prepared by the expert committee, shows that four drains carry storm water from the catchment area in Gubbalala village into Subramanyapura Lake.

"Every Bengalurean was under the impression that there could be no flooding in Bengaluru, though several low-lying areas inhabited by the poor were frequently inundated. The administration woke up only when an upscale locality, home to the rich and famous, was flooded and several vehicles worth hundreds of crores were found floating. In the present case, this court has undertaken several exercises to ascertain whether there is encroachment over the storm water drain, and each exercise has revealed encroachment," Justice Nataraj observed.

The court further said: "The fact that the course of these drains has been altered is evident from the report of the expert committee. While Mantri Tranquil has pushed Drain-I to the edge of its property, it has closed off Drain-II. Therefore, the involvement of the erstwhile owners of Survey No 7 in effacing the storm water drain from the master plan, in collusion with officials of the BDA, cannot be ruled out."

Strict bandobust for Holi; DGP warns against harassment & nuisance

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Police department has issued a comprehensive set of directives to ensure a peaceful Holi celebration across the state.

According to an order released from the office of the Director General and Inspector General of Police (DG&IGP), M A Saleem, all units must maintain zero tolerance toward misconduct, focusing heavily on women's safety and communal harmony.

With the festival often seeing large public gatherings, the police have identified communally sensitive zones for advance deployment. To prevent unrest, 24x7 Social Media Monitoring Cells have been activated to track inflammatory posts and fake news. Peace Committee meetings are also being organised to ensure mutual respect among different communities.

A major highlight of the order is deploying dedicated women police personnel in marketplaces, educational institutions, and residential areas. The DGP directed officers to take strict action against forced colour application, eve-teasing, and stalking. Special patrol teams will be stationed near parks and malls to respond immediately to distress calls.

The police will also regulate the use of loudspeakers and music systems near religious places, following Supreme Court guidelines. Additionally, checks against the sale of illicit liquor and narcotics have been intensified to prevent intoxication-driven nuisance.

Quick Reaction Teams (QRTs) and videography coverage will be used in sensitive areas to ensure accountability. "Holika Dahan" events must only occur at approved locations with proper fire safety measures in place.

After fatal accident, 7-yr-old becomes lifesaver for four

BENGALURU, DHNS

A seven-year-old child, declared brain-dead after a road accident, donated multiple organs, giving a new lease of life to four people.

The child was admitted to Krishna Institute of Medical Sciences (KIMS Hospitals), Mahadevapura, in a critical condition following the accident.

For seven days, a multidisciplinary team led by Dr Gurudutt AV, Head of Paediatric Services and Paediatric Intensivist–PICU and Paediatric Emergency, and Dr Raghuram Gopalakrishnan, Director and Senior Consultant, Head of Stereotactic and Functional Neurosurgery, continued intensive neuroprotection measures and advanced life support treatment.

However, due to a catastrophic brain injury, the child did not show any improvement despite the team's efforts.

On February 24, in line with the National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO) guidelines, the clinical team confirmed brain death.

"In this time of profound grief during their darkest moment, the parents volunteered to donate organs to give a second chance of life for multiple recipients," said Dr Gurudutt.

After the parents' consent, the Government of Karnataka through SOTTO coordinated the retrieval of both corneas, kidneys, liver and four heart valves.

Through this act of generosity, four lives were transformed.

"India's current donation rate stands at only 0.8 per million population. Compared with international benchmarks like Spain (48 per million) or the US (35 per million), we have significant potential to increase organ donation rates," said Dr Narayana Swamy Moola, Director of Intensive Care at KIMS Hospitals, Mahadevapura.

While 2,50,000 people die annually from organ-related diseases, and 1,50,000 cases of brain death occur, only 1,200 successful deceased organ retrievals were done in 2025.

"Paediatric donations account for only 6 per cent of total organ retrievals. This hurdle likely stems from the high emotional bond when it comes to a child's death," Dr Gurudutt said.

"We need to bridge the gap by treating parents with empathy, repeated counselling by the treating team and increasing awareness regarding transparent, government-led organ donation drives," he further added.

Brain-dead Mandya youth saves multiple lives by organ donation

BENGALURU, DHNS: A youth from Mandya, declared brain-dead after a road accident three days ago, gave a new lease of life to several people through organ donation.

Family members of Darshan, a native of Chikkamandya, agreed to donate his kidneys, liver, heart valves and other organs after he was declared brain-dead at Victoria Hospital. The organ transplantation was carried out at the hospital's Trauma and Emergency Care Centre (TECC).

Darshan

Darshan fell off his bike and sustained injuries on February 22. Initially, he dismissed the fall, but his condition turned serious later. He was rushed to hospital where doctors diagnosed internal brain haemorrhage.

He was shifted to the TECC at Victoria Hospital. Despite extensive treatment and tests, he showed no response. After two days, a senior medical panel comprising Dr Kavya ST, Dr Deepak S and Dr Asima Banu of Bengaluru Medical College and Research Institute (BMCRI) declared him brain-dead.

Following counselling sessions by the Jeevasaarthakate team, the family consented to organ donation.

Darshan was the sole breadwinner of the family as his father has been suffering from health-related issues.

Kantara, AI and Cosplay at Bengaluru GAFX 2026

ASRA MAVAD
BENGALURU, DHNS

The seventh edition of Bengaluru GAFX 2026 kicked off in Bengaluru on Friday, bringing together startups, students, creators and technologists across the globe to discuss the fast-evolving AVGC-XR landscape.

Following the theme 'Evolution Reloaded', the three-day conference spotlighted the convergence of human creativity with AI, real-time engines and immersive media.

In the first sessions of the day, cinematographer Arvind Kashyap provided insights into the making of the famed Kannada movie franchise 'Kantara' and the race against time to release 'Kantara Chapter 1' within a span of four months between the final edit and the movie release date. In addition to discussing the film's prominent VFX usage, such as bringing the Bramha Rakshasa character to life, Kashyap also covered finer details where VFX played an important role, including sky replacements and background extensions.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah addresses the gathering at the inauguration of the 7th Edition of Bengaluru GAFX, in Bengaluru on Friday.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Kashyap shared that the hardest scene to shoot was the carriage fight sequence in the prequel. "Due to unexpected weather changes, we had to split the shoot and ensure the scenes looked seamless despite the two shooting schedules being weeks apart. From the way the light fell on characters to the placement of clouds in a gloomy sky, we had to pay attention to every tiny detail," he elaborated.

Speaking on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Kashyap shared that while AI was not used to produce the movie, as a cinematographer, he often utilised AI as a tool to visualise scenes.

In addition to panel discussions and one-on-one sessions, the event also included multiple zones for startups in the field to display their innovations — including live demos of various Virtual Reality (VR) games and experiences.

The popular activities among the crowd were the live sketching alley and the cosplay competitions.

"Despite being a tech capital, Bengaluru doesn't see a lot of events focused on gaming design and the creativity of it all. More such events would be appreciated as more and more youngsters are getting into this field and are interested in building an occupation revolving around it," said Priyanka, a 21-year-old animation and game designer, who dressed up as the character of Mike Hatsune for the cosplay competition. The theme for the first day of the competition was 'Anime and Manga'.

Apart from this, sessions such as 'Creative Growth Blueprint' discussed the importance of collaborations and the need for government support in marketing and distributing the works of local studios. In a fireside chat, Sean Hyunil Sohn of Krafton India examined India's emergence as a strategic global gaming market.

ASHA workers protest new rules, seek higher honorarium

BENGALURU, DHNS: Hundreds of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) on Friday gathered at Freedom Park for a protest demanding cancellation of new rationalisation rules and higher honoraria.

Following requests from ASHA workers to increase their honorarium, the department doubled the population assigned to each worker from 1,000 to 2,000.

Workers say the rationalisation will make over 7,000 workers of them unemployed.

The workers initially demanded an honorarium of Rs 15,000 but settled for Rs 10,000 after talks with the department. The state pays them an honorarium of Rs 5,000 while the Centre pays them performance-linked incentives.

The workers also want to be paid on a fixed date every month. "Like other government employees, we should get fixed salary on a fixed date. Everything else is getting higher except our salaries and we do not even know when we will get our salaries so we can plan our expenses," said Usha K, an ASHA worker from Tumukuru. "It is already very difficult for us to cover 1,000 people. If they allot us 2,000 people, that will become impossible. This is just exploitation," said Rekha S, another worker.

The ASHA workers warned of launching an indefinite strike if their demands are not met in the state budget to be presented on March 6.

D Nagalakshmi, state secretary of the AITUC-affiliated ASHA Union, said, "The demands are old but the protest is new. We have been requesting the same necessities for years but the government is neglecting us." The workers also want a Rs 5-lakh retirement fund, a corpus fund to cover treatment expenses for workers suffering from serious illness, and a fixed monthly honorarium during the recovery period of three months for workers suffering from severe illnesses.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Feb 28: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	32.8	15.6	00
Bidar	32.4	18.8	00
Vijayapura	33.2	15	00
Dharwad	32.6	15.5	00
Haveri	33.4	22.4	00
Kalaburagi	36.2	20.8	00
Raichur	33.4	20	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	32.8	18.8	00
Karwar	34.2	20	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.5	23.4	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	31.1	15.1	00
Bengaluru	31.5	21.3	00
Ballari	NA	NA	00
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	33.1	21	00
Davangere	32.5	17	00
Hassan	31.8	13.4	00
Mysuru	32.6	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	31.4	17.2	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	30.2	13.1	00
Kolkata	30.6	18.7	00
Mumbai	30.7	20.2	00
Chennai	33.5	23.4	00
Pune	33.3	14.7	00
Hyderabad	33.3	20.7	00
Th'puram	33.9	24.6	00

The state government is implementing the Rabies-Free Cities Initiative in 11 major cities. DH FILE PHOTO

K'taka announces action plans for victims of dogs and snake bites

Steering committees formed for coordinated action

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Health and Family Welfare Department has announced a State Action Plan for Rabies Elimination (SAPRE) and a State Action Plan for Prevention and Control of Snakebite Envenoming (SAPSE).

Karnataka declared rabies a notifiable disease in December 2022 to ensure systematic reporting of cases and treatment. It has also declared snakebite A notifiable disease and mandated reporting of all cases and deaths.

Under SAPRE, free Anti-Rabies Vaccine (ARV) and Rabies Immunoglobulin (RIG) will be provided at all primary health centres, community health centres, and taluk and district hospitals. Officials are also mandated to maintain adequate stocks at all times. All private hospitals are also mandated to maintain adequate ARV and RIG stocks at all times.

The action plan has been chalked out under the Karnataka Private Medical Establishments Act, 2007, and the Karnataka Good Samaritan and Medical Professional (Protection and Regulation During Emergency Situations) Act, 2016, which mandate all hospitals to provide immediate first aid, emergency stabilisation and necessary treatment for dog bite victims without insisting on advance payment, with reimbursement provisions under the Suvarna Arogya Surksha Trust scheme.

State and district-level joint steering committees have been constituted for coordinated action and monitoring.

The state government is implementing the Rabies-Free Cities Initiative in 11 major cities — Ballari, Belagavi, Bengaluru (GBA), Davangere, Hubballi-Dharwad, Kalaburagi, Mangaluru, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Tumakuru and Vijayapura.

The Medical Education Department will implement the National Rabies Control Programme in government medical colleges, ensuring functional anti-rabies clinics with vaccines and trained healthcare professionals.

The veterinary department will conduct mass dog vaccination and population management, risk mapping, logistics, surveillance, data-sharing, diagnostics, and establish quarantine and checkpost facilities.

Urban local bodies will manage dog-catching teams, pet registration, stray congregation, and victim verification and compensation.

The Department of School Education will integrate rabies prevention and animal bite management into school health programmes and build teacher capacity on first aid and prevention practices.

The Forest Department and the Karnataka Animal Welfare Board will identify rabies-endemic forest areas, sample wild carcasses, provide pre-exposure prophylaxis to zoo staff and animal handlers, and enforce the the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act.

Under SAPSE, the Health Department will promote help-seeking and consulting health facilities instead of traditional healers. It will also arrange effective management, including early transportation of the patient to the nearest health facility, identification of early signs and symptoms of envenomation, prompt administration of ASV, managing complications due to snakebite and rehabilitation of disabled victims.

The veterinary and agriculture departments will advocate with different stakeholders for resource mobilisation, mapping of high-risk snakebit areas, and build capacity for veterinary and agricultural professionals.

The Forest Department will create awareness in rural-urban communities, minimising human snake contact by behavioural and habitat studies of snakes, registration and training of snake rescuers, and licensing for snake venom extraction.

The Panchayat Raj Department will establish committees, support mobile healthcare units and ambulances, advocacy and training of PRI members and orientation of fake healers.

The Home Department will assist hospitals and the judiciary in medico-legal cases of snakebite, and assist the forest department to apprehend criminals involved in smuggling of all protected snake species.

Modi, Shah will decide whether HDK should become CM: Deve Gowda

VIJAYAPURA, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah will decide whether H D Kumaraswamy is to be made the Chief Minister of Karnataka, once again, said former PM and JD(S) supremo H D Deve Gowda on Friday.

"It is not in my power to say whether Kumaraswamy will become the CM," said Gowda, who flagged off an event organised by the JD(S) as part of the regional party's silver jubilee celebrations. Modi and Shah have the political acumen to leverage the strengths of the JD(S) to boost the prospects of the NDA, said the former PM. "I am 93 years old. I have no aspirations to become a minister, CM or PM. All I pray for is that an able and efficient government come to power in the state before the soul leaves my body," said Gowda.

Pointing to the approval granted for raising the height of the Almatti Dam to 524m, Gowda said that he was willing to lead the fight to ensure it was carried out. "There is no need to divide this state into Mysuru, Kittur and Kalyana Karnataka. We are all children of the same mother. Let us unite to build a strong Karnataka," said the JD(S) supremo. The former PM dubbed the incumbent Congress government in Karnataka the 'worst' he had seen in his political career. Taking a swipe at the Congress's flagship guarantee schemes, he said, "The government must strive to provide work for willing hands."

CPCB notice to cement plant

BENGALURU, DHNS: The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has issued a notice to a cement plant in Kalaburagi district after a team from the Board inspected the plant and flagged several deviations from the rules.

The Kalaburagi Cement Private Limited in Chatrasala village in Chincholi taluk, is an integrated cement plant with permission to produce 3.6 million tonnes per annum of cement and 2.75 million tonnes per annum of clinker, generate 30 MW in its captive power plant and 8.4 MW waste heat recovery system. The CPCB notice said that while the factory had installed continuous emission monitoring systems (CEMS) in five stacks, the CEMS for particulate matter (PM), sulfur dioxide (SO2) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) was not installed in the stack attached to the boiler with a 130 tonne per hour capacity.

Further, the PM concentration in three stacks exceeded the prescribed limits of 30 milligrams/cubic metre. It was 38.11, 63.29 and 357.42 milligrams/cubic metre in the Reverse Air Bag House, cement mill-1 and clinker cooler stacks, respectively. These high levels of PM concentration were, however, found through manual observation.

The CPCB said a "significant deviation was observed" between the PM concentration observed through CEMS, which showed below 30 mg/cubic metre and the manual monitored results. "Further, PM-CEMS data for Cement Mill-2 was observed on CPCB RTDMS portal even when the mill was non-operational," the notice said and directed the factory to take corrective actions.

Govt jobs: Decision on internal quota likely after notification

Cabinet has decided to fill 56,432 vacancies in 30 days

BENGALURU, DHNS

The state government, which decided on Thursday to conduct recruitment to 56,432 vacant jobs in 30 days, is likely to take a decision on recalibrating internal reservation for Scheduled Castes (SCs) within the 15% limit after issuing the notification.

In a joint press statement on Friday, Food and Civil Supplies Minister K H Muniyappa and Excise Minister R B Timmapur noted that they and other SC and ST ministers in the Cabinet — G Parameshwara, Dr H C Mahadevappa, Satish Jarkiholi, Priyank Kharge, Shivaraj Tangadagi — and Deputy Speaker Rudrappa Lamani had discussed the government's decision to conduct recruitment as per the earlier 15% model (subject to the High Court's verdict).

"Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D K Shivakumar have been informed and they have asked to take a final decision after issuing the notification."

The previous BJP government had hiked the reservation quota for SCs from 15% to 17% and the quota for Scheduled Tribes from 3% to 7%. Based on the new 17% formula, the Congress-led state government decided to provide internal reservation for the SCs based on the 6:6:5 formula.

Both Muniyappa and Timmapur hail from the SC (left)/ Madiga community, which has for decades fought for internal reservation.

Stating that the government was "committed" to enforcing internal reservation before the recruitment process is completed, the two ministers urged all communities to not to get into confusion and issue "unnecessary" statements.

They also explained that 6% reservation was temporarily being kept aside (it will be temporarily 50% for reserved categories and 44% for general category). Depending on the court's final verdict, the 6% reservation will either be given to the SCs and STs (2% for SCs, 4% for STs) or to the general category. They thanked the Governor for approving the internal reservation bill that was unanimously passed during the Winter Session of the Legislature in Belagavi.

Govt adopting divide-and-rule policy, says BJP

CHITRADURGA/SHIVAMOGGA/HUBBALLI, DHNS: The BJP leaders intensified their attack on the state government on Friday over its decision to fill over 56,000 posts, alleging that internal reservation for Scheduled Castes and Tribes is being sidelined.

Chitradurga MP Govind Karjol charged that the government was indulging in gimmicks in the name of internal reservation while continuing with the old system in recruitment.

Addressing press conferences in Chitradurga and Shikaripur in Shivamogga, he said approving direct recruitment of 56,432 posts on the same day after the governor gave nod for the internal reservation bill is condemnable.

"If recruitment is not carried out as per the internal classification, it would put Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in a difficult position," he warned.

Karjol accused the chief minister of adopting a divide-and-rule policy among SC/ST communities and postponing recruitment under internal reservation by a year, terming it a betrayal of the Constitution.

He demanded a meeting of all parties and leaders of 101 SC sub-castes, and alleged that Rs 39,000 crore meant for SC welfare had been diverted.

Meanwhile, in Hubballi, Deputy Leader of Opposition Arvind Bellad termed the Cabinet decision a victory for the BJP and All Karnataka State Students' Association protests in Dharwad.

He urged the government to issue a notification within a month and complete recruitment in three months, incorporating the 6%:6%:5%+1% internal quota within the existing 15% SC reservation, as permitted by the Supreme Court of India.

He also sought the withdrawal of cases against the protesting students.

Justice Nagamohan Das seeks govt to clarify on internal quota in recruitment

PRATHIMA NANDAKUMAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

Amid the uncertainty over internal reservation following the Cabinet's decision to carry out recruitment to fill 56,432 vacancies based on "old" reservation matrix (15%), Justice H N Nagamohan Das, while welcoming the decision, has advised the state government to "pursue" the pending cases in the High Court related to the enhanced SC quota (from 15% to 17%) on priority, stating delays could have "serious repercussions."

Justice Das, who led the one-man commission on internal reservation for Scheduled Castes, also sought the state government to clarify as to how the internal reservation would be accommodated within the 15% quota.

Speaking to *DH*, Justice Das said, "I welcome the Cabinet decision to carry out recruitment to fill up 56,432 vacancies as there has been no recruitment for a long time. Almost 2.84 lakh sanctioned posts are vacant. The youth are frustrated. So, the decision to go ahead with old reservation matrix of 15% in lieu of the High Court stay on enhanced quota, is welcome. However, the government should clarify on how the internal quota will be accommodated within the 15% quota."

Justice H N Nagamohan Das

He was pointing to a serious concern as there was no internal reservation formula in place before the quota was enhanced by the previous Bommai-led BJP government.

After the Supreme Court (in August 2024) ruled that States could create sub-classification within SCs (in State of Punjab vs Davindar Singh), the Siddaramaiah government appointed the Justice Nagamohan Das Commission to conduct fresh empirical study. The Commission classified SCs into four subgroups – SC (Left) – 6.5%, SC (Right) 5.5%, SC (Touchables) 4% and SC (Nomadic communities and others 1%. The state Cabinet combined groups C and D and adopted the 6-6-5 formula.

Subsequently, the 'Karnataka Scheduled Castes (Sub-Classification) Bill, 2025' passed in on December 19, 2025, was given approval by Governor Thaawarchand Gehlot on February 26, 2026, after a delegation of SC and ST ministers urged him to clear the bill citing delay in recruitments and the massive protest by job aspirants at Dharwad demanding filling up of 2.84 lakh backlog posts.

The state cabinet announced it would fill up 56,432 vacancies shortly but without elaborating whether recruitments would be carried out with or without the internal quota.

Legal hurdles

The High Court is currently examining the legality of enhancing the SC quota from 15% to 17% (as it breaches the 50% cap on total reservation), along with internal sub-classification, following petitions challenging the '6-6-5' formula by the most-backward and under-represented Alemari community.

The uncertainty over the enhanced quota has now placed three phases of recruitment in a grey zone: those carried out between 2022 and 2025 under enhanced quota, recruitments undertaken after 2025 (as per 6-6-5 formula) and the proposed recruitment of around 56,432 posts now being processed under the old matrix.

Options before govt

An administrative option is to scale down the 6-6-5 quotas proportionately within the 15% cap. The government could also bring in a fresh ordinance on the revised formula to be placed for approval in the upcoming Budget session of the Assembly. Legal experts, however, point out that the pending cases on enhanced quota have placed the past, present, and proposed recruitments in limbo and an early resolution of the litigation is the only option to avoid administrative complications and ensure clarity for lakhs of job aspirants.

BU tells all PG depts to adopt two villages

BENGALURU, DHNS

Bangalore University has made it mandatory for all postgraduate departments to adopt at least two villages from the 2026-27 academic year as a part of community engagement and social responsibility.

The university's move is inspired by the initiative of the University's Law College, which adopted two villages in the Tumakuru district and created legal awareness and extended legal assistance to the villagers. The college's efforts earned praise from the villagers.

The university has now made a decision and directed all other departments to follow. Though the university is not particular about the villages, the departments can choose the villages in the neighbouring districts.

The university has 42 departments, and if each department adopts two villages and takes on development and awareness activities, this will be a big initiative.

"Law College has taken up the initiative in association with Karnataka State Legal Services Authority. Sharing their opinion, villagers expressed gratitude towards the college," said an official from the university.

The University's Law College implemented a legal awareness and literacy programme at the two adopted villages.

As part of the initiative, the students of the final year Law course helped some villages even to settle their long-pending legal hurdles.

JAYAKARA S M
VC, Bangalore University

"The departments will decide on the activities they should take up after adopting the villages. It could be cleanliness, sanitation, teaching English or any other subject at government schools, conducting art classes etc.

"As part of the initiative, the students even educated villagers about child marriage, child labour, property rights for women, dowry harassment etc,," the official said.

As informed by the students, the villagers were even unaware of accessing digital documents, like Aadhaar.

Speaking about the mandatory village adoption initiative, Vice Chancellor Dr Jayakara S M said that the initiative by the Law College was a great success and was lauded by the villagers.

"Considering the success, we have decided to extend the same to all 42 departments," he said.

The departments of the university would decide on the activities they should take up after adopting the villages.

"It could be cleanliness, sanitation, teaching English or any other subject at government schools, conducting art classes, importance of water, health schemes and other initiatives by the government etc," he said.

NOT SO HOLY PICTURE

Heaps of disposed clothes at Krishna-Malaprabha Sangama in Kudalasangama of Bagalkot district. DH PHOTO

Rs 52K credited to each Gruha Lakshmi beneficiary: Dinesh Gooligowda

BENGALURU, DHNS

MLC and vice-chairperson of the Guarantee Schemes Implementation Authority Dinesh Gooligowda said that the state government has, so far, credited the 26th instalment of Rs 2,000 under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme, taking the total assistance to Rs 52,000 for each woman head of household.

He told reporters that the government has spent over Rs 1.20 lakh crore on its five guarantee schemes in the last two and a half years, transferring funds directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts.

Under the Gruha Lakshmi scheme alone, 1,24,10,629 women have registered, with a total expenditure of Rs 62,345.34 crore so far. The funds for the 27th instalment have already been released and will soon reach beneficiaries across all 31 districts, he added.

"Since Rs 2,000 is being directly credited every month, women's participation in household financial decisions has increased. The guarantee schemes are not just financial assistance, but a promise of dignity," he said.

Highlighting the progress of other schemes, he said the Gruha Jyothi programme is providing free electricity up to 200 units to 1.65 crore households and over 679 crore free bus tickets have been issued to women under the Shakti scheme. The Anna Bhagya scheme has incurred an expenditure of Rs 16,000 crore and more than 3 lakh unemployed graduates are receiving financial assistance under the Yuva Nidhi scheme, he said.

Alleging misinformation by the opposition parties, he said, "The guarantee schemes will not be discontinued under any circumstances. They are being implemented for all without discrimination."

Leadership row may damage Congress, says Tanveer Sait

KPCC working prez asks high command to clear air on the issue

MYSURU, DHNS

Sounding a stern warning to the Congress high command, KPCC working president and MLA Tanveer Sait, on Friday, said that the ongoing confusion over the leadership issue and the growing list of ministerial aspirants is damaging the party's image and could lead to a 'political disaster'.

Tanveer Sait

Speaking to reporters in Mysuru city, Sait expressed his frustration over the lack of transparency regarding a possible change in leadership of the state government.

"The list of not only those seeking ministerial berths, but also of CM aspirants is growing by the day. If there was any agreement regarding a power transfer, the party high command must clear the air immediately. If this delay continues, both a 'disaster' and a 'shock' would happen in the Congress," he warned.

Sait is a former minister and a prominent minority leader of Mysuru, the home district of Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. The issue of power-sharing between Siddaramaiah and his deputy D K Shivakumar, also KPCC president, is long-pending, with diverse political debate.

Using a metaphor to describe the internal rift, Sait remarked, "Everything is not OK in the Congress. There is a fire, and the smoke is now spreading everywhere. This has reached a dangerous stage. Indiscipline is becoming clearly visible, and the longer we delay a decision, the greater the loss for the party."

Sait added that he has already briefed AICC general secretary in-charge of Karnataka, Randeep Singh Surjewala, about the gravity of the situation. "I have explained the entire scenario. It is high time the high command takes a firm decision and clear the air," he said.

Personal opinion

Reacting to the recent statements by MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah, also son of CM Siddaramaiah, regarding the leadership change issue, Sait said that personal opinions should not be mistaken for the high command's stance. Yathindra has been saying that his father will continue for the full five-year term, over the past few weeks.

"Individual statements cannot shake the party. No one should speak as they please. Whether Siddaramaiah stays or someone else takes over - nothing is clear. The party high command should specify if there will be a change or not," Sait said.

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SWEET NEWS

Soon, free insulin for under-18s suffering from Type 1 diabetes

AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

The Health and Family Welfare Department is all set to provide insulin to Type 1 diabetes patients across the state for free.

All children under the age of 18 will be eligible for the scheme. By providing the insulin, the department will help families save up to 4,000 a month, doctors said.

The department will facilitate the availability of insulin at government healthcare establishments based on the number of patients present in the specific area.

The announcement for the same is expected to be made in the state budget on March 6 by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dinesh Gundu Rao told *DH*: "Since Type 1 diabetes is not a rampant issue, we want to make it available where patients are present, we will map them. All children under the age of 18 can avail the facilities."

The Health Department will facilitate the availability of insulin at government healthcare establishments based on the number of patients present in the specific area. PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

Dr Santosh Olety, Associate Professor and HOD, Paediatric and Adolescent Endocrinologist, Karnataka Institute of Endocrinology and Research (KIER), said: "There are about 7,000 patients with Type 1 diabetes across the state. The price of each insulin per month varies from Rs 2,000 to Rs 4,000 depending on the child's age."

The doctor added that through CSR funds and philanthropic initiatives, 500-600 patients are being helped at the KIER.

"In 2022, the same initiative was proposed for around 3,000 patients, who could not afford insulin, but it took a backseat. The initiative will definitely help ease the financial burdens of the family," he further said.

Announcement for the same is expected to be made in state budget

What is Type 1 diabetes?

Explaining Type 1 diabetes and its implications, Dr Shantala J, Associate Consultant- Pediatric Endocrinology, said: "Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition where the pancreas completely stops producing insulin, which is essential for food to turn into energy. Without insulin, blood sugar rises to dangerous levels, and the child can develop a life-threatening emergency called Diabetic Keto Acidosis (DKA). Insulin must be taken lifelong."

He continued: "Apart from insulin, the Glucometer and test strips (children with type 1 diabetes need to check glucose around 6-7 times a day), Lancets and syringes or insulin pen needles, HbA1c testing every 3 months, along with monitoring for chronic diabetes complications and emergency visits if sugars fluctuate."

Health dept comes up with new rules for docs pursuing higher edu

BENGALURU, DHNS: After facing backlash, the Health and Family Welfare Department has issued new rules for doctors on their higher education.

Doctors choosing to pursue postgraduate courses such as DNB or diploma must work in the speicific department for at least 10 years and should give an undertaking, as per the order issued by the department.

Doctors will pay a fine to the government if they fail to complete the course in the stipulated time, maintain logbooks or meet the benchmark set by the National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS).

The order also stipulated that doctors must provide certificates validating that they meet the NBEMS standards to avail the monthly incentives.

The department also ordered including treatment for Non-Priority Households (NPHH) diagnosed with secondary complications caused by rare diseases.

The patients will be registered with the Indira Gandhi Institute of Child Health (IGICH) in Bengaluru using the existing benefit packages under the Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) scheme.

NPHH cardholders are currently covered for 30% of the package cost under the ABArK scheme, which shall now be extended to full coverage.

The Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust (SAST) has been directed to enforce this order on a pilot basis, subject to an overall ceiling of Rs 1 crore.

Currently, the Centre offers Rs 50 lakh for people diagnosed with rare diseases.

Fear of losing allowance hits Yuva Nidhi Plus enrolment

Unemployment dole recipients wary of travelling to upskilling centres

GURURAJ S GUNJAL
HUBBALLI, DHNS

A majority of the beneficiaries of the government's ambitious Yuva Nidhi scheme are showing little interest in joining the Yuva Nidhi Plus initiative, an upskilling programme, launched by the skill development, entrepreneurship and livelihood department in February last year, to provide short-term practical and entrepreneurship training.

Officials say misconceptions about losing unemployment allowance and hesitation to travel to training centres are key reasons for poor enrolment.

Industry-relevant courses are offered for free in Artificial Intelligence (AI), electric vehicles (EV), digital marketing, cybersecurity, Tally and other emerging job roles. But participation remains very low at Karnataka German technical training institute (KGTTI) centres in Hubballi, Kalaburagi and Belagavi.

Yuva Nidhi Plus is designed to make beneficiaries more employable and reduce financial dependence by complementing the monthly unemployment allowance with practical training. However, even a year after its launch, many beneficiaries continue to believe that enrolling for it will result in allowance being discontinued.

The programme utilises government training institutions like KGTTI, centre for entrepreneurship development of Karnataka (CEDOK), government tool room and training centres (GTTCs) and vocational training providers under the skill development corporation.

A file photo of a skill training centre. Yuva Nidhi Plus is designed to make beneficiaries more employable and reduce financial dependence by complementing the monthly unemployment allowance with practical training.

Satheesh K, manager of KGTTI on the premises of the government polytechnic at Vidya Nagar in Hubballi, told *DH* that Yuva Nidhi beneficiaries receiving Rs 3,000 (degree holders) and Rs 1,500 (diploma holders) were being encouraged to join Yuva Nidhi Plus. Beneficiaries should not assume allowance will stop if they enrol, he said.

"The two-hour daily sessions over two months equip them with technical and soft skills required in the job market. Our goal is to help them secure employment. We have contacted 2,459 students over phone and urged them to take advantage of Yuva Nidhi Plus. Yet, only 128 of them availed the benefits," he said.

In Kalaburagi, where KGTTI is the only training centre in entire Kalyana Karnataka region, its director Rajesh Bavagi said, only 56 joined training, despite calling up over 10,000 beneficiaries.

KGTTI staff in Belagavi reported similar trends. Of the more than 800 beneficiaries contacted over the last 7 months, only a handful of them enrolled. Some hesitate even to share OTP required for first-time registration.

Officials of KGTTI said the training was entirely free, highly relevant to industry needs and aimed at enabling beneficiaries to move towards stable employment, if only they were willing to join.

HC: Surname with maternal derivative does not affect any substantive legal right

BENGALURU, DHNS

Alteration of the child's surname to incorporate the maternal derivative and family name does not affect any substantive legal right of the father or any third party, the Karnataka high court has ruled in a recent judgement.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj said this while deciding the case emerging from the dissolution of a live-in relationship and the mother seeking to alter the child's surname with maternal derivative/family name in the birth certificate.

The mother and her live-in-partner are from Nepal. It was submitted that the child, now about eight years old and attending school in Bengaluru, is being raised solely by the mother, with the support of her maternal family.

The father has abandoned them and has no role whatsoever in the child's life. The mother along with her child moved the high court after her application for alteration in the birth certificate was rejected. The petitioners contended that it is in the best interest of the child that the maternal family's identity is reflected in the birth certificate.

After perusing the material, Justice Suraj Govindaraj noted that the Registrar (Births and Deaths) possessed power under the Registration of Births and Deaths Act, to affect the correction sought. The court also observed that the mother's decision to give the child her own family name, particularly in circumstances where the father has abandoned the child, is a reasonable and rational exercise of parental authority that serves the best interest of the child.

"The insertion of the maternal derivative/family name in the birth certificate does not affect any substantive legal rights of any person. The biological and legal relationship between the child and the father, including the child's rights of inheritance, succession, and maintenance, remains unaltered. The change is one of nomenclature and identity that reflects the actual family environment in which the child is being raised," Justice Suraj Govindaraj said.

JUSTICE SURAJ GOVINDARAJ
Karnataka High Court Judge

"Parenthood is not a hierarchy; it is a legal relationship. Where the mother is the sole caregiver and natural guardian in fact, there is no constitutional impediment in recognising maternal lineage as the marker of the child's surname. Recognition of maternal identity does not diminish paternal status; it affirms parity.

The judge further said, "...I hold that the relief sought is squarely in the best interest of the minor child. The change in name will promote the child's identity, dignity, well-being, and practical convenience, and is consistent with the principle of the best interest of the child as enshrined in Article 21 of the Constitution and Article 3 of the UNCRC. The matter would be different if the father participated in the upkeep of the child by contributing to the child's maintenance."

The court further said that before the fresh birth certificate is issued, the mother shall furnish an indemnity deed in such form as the authorities may prescribe, indemnifying the authorities against any claim that may arise on account of the changes effected pursuant to this order.

Activists demand biodiversity heritage site tag for 'Appemidi' growing areas

The Appemidi mangoes face threats due to encroachment, commercial monoculture and land use change. DH FILE PHOTO

CHIRANJEEVI KULKARNI
BENGALURU, DHNS

Environment activists from the Western Ghats have written to the chairman of the Karnataka Biodiversity Board requesting that the areas growing Appemidi mango varieties be declared a biodiversity heritage site.

The proposal by Anant Hegde Ashisara, former chairman of the Board, and Balachandra Hegde Sayimane, member of the Western Ghats Task Force, said Appemidi has a unique genetic diversity with over 100 recognised varieties tied to cultural and ecological heritage.

The 100 metre zone on either side of the Aghanashini river from the Sarakuli village bordering Sirsi and Siddapur taluks until the river reaches Unchali Falls has been proposed as a heritage site.

'Genetic uniqueness'

The proposal cited a 2013 study by the Indian Institute of Horticultural Research, Bengaluru, identifying 33 distinct accessions conserved in gene banks.

"Scientific studies have documented the genetic uniqueness of these varieties. Such diversity is not only a genetic reservoir but also a living heritage of the Western Ghats, reflecting the intimate relationship between people and their landscapes," the proposal said.

Despite the importance, the Appemidi mangoes face threats due to encroachment, commercial monoculture and land use change.

In addition, climate variability has begun to affect the flowering and fruiting cycles.

Apart from the legal protection through formal declaration of the heritage site, they sought community stewardship, documentation, awareness and outreach as among measures that will help conserve the varieties.

The proposal also suggested research and monitoring studies by universities and institutes under the Indian Council Agriculture Research.

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ (ಕೆಸ್ಟೆಪ್ಸ್)

1000 ದಿನಗಳ ಸಾಧನೆ

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಯಿಂದ ಕರುನಾಡು ಸಮೃದ್ಧಿ

ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ. ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್
ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಭಾರತರತ್ನ
ಸರ್ ಸಿ.ವಿ. ರಾಮನ್

ರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ದಿನಾಚರಣೆ

ಇಂದಿನ ಈ ಆಧುನಿಕ ಯುಗದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನವೇ ಜಗವನ್ನಾಳುತ್ತಿದೆ. ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮನುಷ್ಯನ ಬದುಕಿನ ಅವಿಭಾಜ್ಯ ಅಂಗವಾಗಿದೆ. ಉಳುಮೆಯಿಂದ ಉಪಗ್ರಹಗಳ ಉಡಾವಣೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಪ್ರತಿ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದಲ್ಲೂ ಹೊಸ ಹೊಸ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರಗಳು ಸಂಭವಿಸುತ್ತಿವೆ. ಈ ಅತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕ ಯುಗದ ಸವಾಲುಗಳನ್ನು ಪರಿಹರಿಸಿ, ಜನಜೀವನವನ್ನು ಸುಧಾರಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿ ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು, ಉಪ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಕೆ ಶಿವಕುಮಾರ್ ರವರು ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರಾದ ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್ ಬೋಸರಾಜು ರವರ ನೇತೃತ್ವ ಹಾಗೂ ಮಾರ್ಗದರ್ಶನದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಹಗಲಿರುಳು ಶ್ರಮಿಸುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯಮಂತ್ರಿಗಳಾದ **ಶ್ರೀ ಸಿದ್ದರಾಮಯ್ಯ ರವರು** ಹಾಗೂ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಣ್ಣ ನೀರಾವರಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಚಿವರಾದ
ಶ್ರೀ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಬೋಸರಾಜು
ಅವರು ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ರೋಡ್ ಮ್ಯಾಪ್ ಅನಾವರಣಗೊಳಿಸುತ್ತಿರುವುದು.

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರ & ತಾರಾಲಯಗಳು

ಕಳೆದ 1000 ದಿನಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ, ಕೊಪ್ಪಳ ಮುಂತಾದ 4 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು, ಗದಗ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಸಜ್ಜಿತ ತಾರಾಲಯ ಸಿದ್ಧಗೊಂಡಿದೆ. ರಾಜ್ಯದ 8 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಹೊಸ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ 4 ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ತಾರಾಲಯಗಳ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ ಅಗತ್ಯ ಕ್ರಮ ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ರಾಯಚೂರು ಉಪ-ಪ್ರಾದೇಶಿಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಕೇಂದ್ರವನ್ನು ಮೇಲ್ದರ್ಜೆಗೇರಿಸುವ ಕಾರ್ಯವೂ ಪ್ರಗತಿಯಲ್ಲಿದೆ.

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ನಗರ/ ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ಸಿಟಿ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರಿನ ಸಮೀಪ 25 ಎಕರೆ ಪ್ರದೇಶದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಂದಾಜು 300 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂಪಾಯಿಗಳ ಅನುದಾನದಲ್ಲಿ ಆತ್ಯಾಧುನಿಕ ಸೈನ್ಸ್ ಸಿಟಿ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ

ಡಾ. ಎಚ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ

ಡಾ. ಎಚ್. ನರಸಿಂಹಯ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ ಸ್ಥಾಪನೆ ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ಶೈಕ್ಷಣಿಕ, ಸಾಂಸ್ಕೃತಿಕ & ಪ್ರವಾಸೋದ್ಯಮ ಸ್ಮಾರಕ ತಾಣಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆಗೆ ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಂಚಾರಿ ಡಿಜಿಟಲ್ ತಾರಾಲಯ

ಶಾಲಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಮನೋಭಾವವನ್ನು ಹೆಚ್ಚಿಸುವ ಸಲುವಾಗಿ ರಾಜ್ಯದ ಸರ್ಕಾರಿ ಮತ್ತು ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಹಿರಿಯ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಿಗೆ ತೆರಳಿ, ಖಗೋಳ ಪ್ರದರ್ಶಗಳನ್ನು ಏರ್ಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ದೂರದರ್ಶಕಗಳ ವಿತರಣೆ

ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಖಗೋಳ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನದ ಆಸಕ್ತಿ ಬೆಳೆಸಲು 3 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ವೆಚ್ಚದಲ್ಲಿ 833 ವಸತಿ ಶಾಲೆಗಳು ಹಾಗೂ ಪದವಿ ಪೂರ್ವ ಕಾಲೇಜುಗಳಿಗೆ ತಲಾ ಒಂದರಂತೆ ದೂರದರ್ಶಕಗಳನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ನೆಹರು ಸ್ಟೀಮ್ ಲ್ಯಾಬ್

ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ ಸಹಯೋಗದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಶಾಲೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಹರು ಸ್ಟೀಮ್ ಲ್ಯಾಬ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ಥಾಪಿಸಲು ಕ್ರಮ ವಹಿಸಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

PHD- DST Scholarship

ಪ್ರತಿ ವರ್ಷ 60 ಮಂದಿ ಅರ್ಹ ಪಿ.ಎಚ್.ಡಿ ಸಂಶೋಧನಾ ವಿದ್ಯಾರ್ಥಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವತಿಯಿಂದ ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ ತಲಾ 20 ಸಾವಿರ ರೂ.ಗಳ ಮಾಸಿಕ ಶಿಷ್ಯವೇತನವನ್ನು ನೀಡಲಾಗುತ್ತಿದೆ.

VGST Grants

ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ಸಂಶೋಧನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ದಾರ್ಶನಿಕ ಸಮೂಹದ ಶಿಫಾರಸುಗಳ ಆಧಾರದ ಮೇಲೆ ಈ ವರೆಗೂ 204 ಪ್ರಸ್ತಾವನೆಗಳನ್ನು ಆಯ್ಕೆ ಮಾಡಿ, ಒಟ್ಟು 32.90 ಕೋಟಿ ರೂ. ಗಳ ಅನುದಾನವನ್ನು ಒದಗಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನ

2025ರ ಜುಲೈನಲ್ಲಿ ನಡೆದ 'ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ಇಂಡಿಯಾ ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು' ಶೃಂಗಸಭೆ ಯಶಸ್ವಿಯಾಗಿ ನಡೆದಿದ್ದು, 2035ರ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಕ್ವಾಂಟಮ್ ಮಿಷನ್ ಘೋಷಿಸಲಾಯಿತು; ಸಚಿವ ಎನ್.ಎಸ್. ಬೋಸರಾಜು ನೇತೃತ್ವದ ನಿಯೋಗವು ಸ್ವಿಡ್ಜರ್‌ಲ್ಯಾಂಡ್ ಶೃಂಗಸಭೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಿ ಅಂತಾರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಒಡಂಬಡಿಕೆಗಳಿಗೆ ಮುನ್ನುಡಿ ಬರೆದಿತು.

ಸರ್ವರಿಗೂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ, ಸುಲಭ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಹಾಗು ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗಾಗಿ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಎಂಬ ಆಶಯದೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಮಾಜದ ಕಟ್ಟಕಡೆಯ ವ್ಯಕ್ತಿಗೂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ & ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನದ ಸವಲತ್ತುಗಳನ್ನು ಲಭ್ಯವಾಗಿಸುವ ಮೂಲಕ ಸುಸ್ಥಿರ ಹಾಗು ಸುಂದರ ನಾಳೆಗಳನ್ನು ಸೃಷ್ಟಿಸುವ ನಿಟ್ಟಿನಲ್ಲಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯು ಮುನ್ನಡೆಯುತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಸಂವಿಧಾನದ 51 A (h) ವಿಧಿಯ ಅನ್ವಯ **"ವೈಜ್ಞಾನಿಕ ಮನೋಭಾವನೆ, ಮಾನವೀಯತೆ, ಜಿಜ್ಞಾಸೆಯ ಮತ್ತು ಸುಧಾರಣೆಯ ಪ್ರವೃತ್ತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಬೆಳೆಸಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು"** - ಪ್ರತಿಯೊಬ್ಬ ಭಾರತೀಯನ ಸಂವಿಧಾನಬದ್ಧ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಕರ್ತವ್ಯ.

ಡಾ. ಮಂಜುಳಾ ಎನ್., ಭಾ. ಆ. ಸೇ
ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಕಾರ್ಯದರ್ಶಿಗಳು ,
ವಿದ್ಯುನ್ಮಾನ, ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಜೈವಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ
ಹಾಗೂ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ, ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಸದಾಶಿವ ಪ್ರಭು ಬಿ., ಭಾ. ಆ. ಸೇ
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು
ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕ ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು,
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಪ್ರೋತ್ಸಾಹಕ ಸೊಸೈಟಿ (ಕೆಸ್ಟೆಪ್ಸ್), ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

Gadag village gets govt salon after barbers refuse to entertain Dalits

MUNDARAGI (GADAG DISTRICT), DHNS: The officials of social welfare department, gram panchayat and revenue took initiative to open a barber shop at Singatalur village in Mundaragi taluk of the district after the members of Hadapad community refused to entertain the Dalits.

The move was aimed at eradicating the caste-based discrimination, which was prevalent in the village.

Citing a tradition, the Hadapad families, devotees of village deity Veerabhadreshwara, denied haircuts to Dalits over the years. Interestingly, this 'ancestral custom' had a stamp of approval from the Dalit community for generations.

The lone barber shop in the village was shut recently after Dalit youths started visiting the shop and insisting on their right to service. The shop was opened after taking permission from the gram panchayat. Hence, they should provide service to all, the Dalit youths had urged.

A few Hadapad families in the village took up farming on a small scale and odd jobs. They visited the houses of upper classes, but denied haircuts to the members of Dalit community, who were forced to visit the neighbouring villages for a haircut.

The officials of social welfare and the revenue departments tried to convince the barbers to open shops and offer the service to all communities. After their efforts failed to yield the desired results, the officials issued notices to Hadapad families. But they were in no mood to relent. With no option, the officials decided to open a government barber shop.

The lone barber shop in the village was shut recently after Dalit youths started visiting the shop and insisting on their right to service. The shop was opened after taking permission from the gram panchayat. Hence, they should provide service to all, the Dalit youths had urged.

Udaykumar Yeliwal, the assistant director of the Social Welfare department, successfully convinced Devu Hadapad, state president of Hadapada Appanna Samaj to open a salon in the village. Accordingly, a barber shop was opened in the presence of tahsildar Yerriswai and other taluk and district officials on February 26.

AERB okays two 700-MWe units at Kaiga nuclear plant

4 of the 8 steam generators for the units already dispatched

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB) has approved the "first pour of concrete" for Kaiga-5 and 6 nuclear power plants, setting in motion the process to construct two 700 MWe (megawatts of electrical power) plants in Karnataka by 2031.

In an approval letter issued earlier this week, AERB Chairman A K Balasubrahmanian granted "consent for first pour of concrete for Kaiga-5 and 6, subject to satisfactory compliance with the stipulations and conditions."

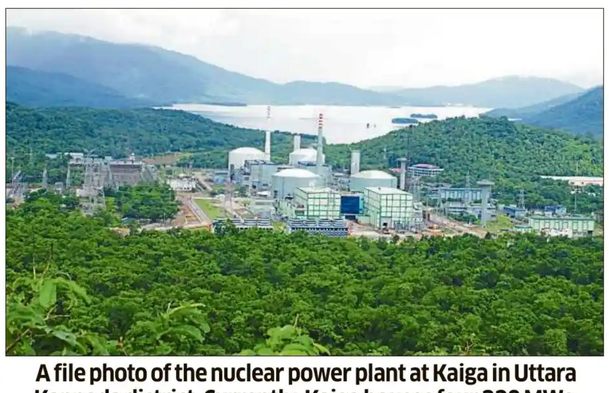
The consent is valid till February 28, 2031.

The pouring of the first concrete for a nuclear island is the point at which a site is officially recognised as a nuclear power unit under construction. Excavation works for the units began in May 2022.

The two 700 MWe pressurised heavy water reactors (PHWR) at Kaiga are part of 10 such large nuclear reactors that were approved for construction by the Union government on a "fleet mode" way back in 2017.

Currently, Kaiga houses four 220 MWe PHWR that were connected to the grid between 2000 and 2011.

Heavy engineering firm Larsen & Toubro has already manufactured and dispatched four of the eight steam generators for the units.



A file photo of the nuclear power plant at Kaiga in Uttara Kannada district. Currently, Kaiga houses four 220 MWe pressurised heavy water reactors that were connected to the grid between 2000 and 2011.

Last April, the Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd gave a purchase order to a Hyderabad-based company for the two new Kaiga units.

The Rs 12,800-crore engineering, procurement and construction contract for the two 700 MWe nuclear reactors was the biggest order placed by NPCIL, and it was the first major nuclear contract for the company, according to a report in the World Nuclear News.

The two new PHWR units at Kaiga are part of the Union government's plan to augment the country's nuclear power capacity, for which the closely-guarded sector has been opened up for private companies.

With India eyeing 100 GW of nuclear power by 2047, nearly 50% of the capacity is to come from the private sector. But the "fleet mode" reactors will be constructed by the NPCIL. Besides Kaiga, other units would be set up at Mahi Banswara in Rajasthan (four units of 700 MW capacity each); Gorakhpur in Haryana (2 units) and Chutka in Madhya Pradesh (2 units).

Two 700 MWe pressurised heavy water reactor units at Kakrapar, in Gujarat, are already in commercial operation. Another, Rajasthan Unit 7, reached full power earlier this month. Construction is ongoing on a second 700 MWe unit at the Rajasthan site.

The NPCIL currently operates 24 nuclear power reactors with an installed capacity of 8180 MW.

SC grants bail to Cong MLA Vinay Kulkarni in BJP worker murder case

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday granted bail to Congress MLA and former Karnataka minister Vinay Kulkarni in a case related to the murder of a BJP worker in 2016, after noting that all the cited prosecution witnesses have been examined in the matter.

Providing relief to the MLA, a bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and Augustine George Masih also directed for completing trial within two months "under all circumstances".

Vinay Kulkarni

Senior advocate Sidharth Luthra argued the matter on behalf of Kulkarni, who has challenged the Karnataka High Court's order of January 27, 2026 refusing him bail.

The High Court had asked him to approach the Supreme Court, which on June 6, 2025 cancelled his bail, after finding that he and another accused had tried to contact and influence witnesses.

Luthra said except for the present accused, all the remaining accused persons have already been released on bail.

The court also directed all the accused persons to remain present on such dates as may be fixed by the trial court and positively have their statements recorded. "Evidence in defense, if any, to be led by any of accused also has to be done on day-to-day basis," the bench ordered.

The court also clarified, if the trial court feels that the trial is delayed on account of the petitioner's conduct, it would be open to the judge to take appropriate steps in accordance with the law, including cancellation of bail.

The CBI did not press for his plea for cancellation of bail of another accused Channakeshava B Tingarikar, since all witnesses have been examined in the case.

According to the CBI, BJP worker Yogeshgouda Goudar, 26, a member of Zilla Panchayat, was hacked to death on June 15, 2016 at his gym in Saptapur in Dharwad after being immobilised with chilli powder, thrown on his face.

The victim's family members suspected role of Vinay Kulkarni in the murder, leading to the decision to hand over the probe to the CBI.

The CBI case is that Kulkarni, who was district in charge minister at the relevant time, did not want Yogesh Goudar to grow as a leader in Dharwad and hired contract killers to eliminate him.

Apex court stays HC order setting aside Congress MLA Subbareddy's election

'Petitioner will continue to remain as MLA for all practical purposes'

NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday put on hold the Karnataka High Court's judgment which set aside the election of Congress MLA S N Subbareddy from the Bagepalli constituency in Chikkaballapur district during the 2023 Assembly polls.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi issued a notice to unsuccessful BJP candidate C Muniraju on whose plea, the High Court passed its judgment earlier this month.

The court declared the petitioner would continue to remain as MLA for all practical purposes.

Senior advocates Kapil Sibal and Devadatt Kamat assailed the High Court's order, which cancelled the petitioner's election on the ground that full disclosure regarding assets was not made, resulting in a corrupt practice as per Section 123(1) of the Representation of the People Act.

The High Court, however, has not declared the BJP candidate as the winner, saying, it is for the Election Commission to take steps in accordance with the law.

The counsel for the respondent contended that the petitioner did not disclose his liquor business in the election affidavit. The bench, however, said the Supreme Court's rulings making it mandatory for all the candidates to file an affidavit on assets did not mean to disclose all sorts of business.

"When you don't win elections, you dig up such grounds," the bench told the counsel.

The court emphasised disclosure of income is required and not the nature of the business. The bench also said that courts cannot perform the role of a chartered accountant.

The court sought a response from the BJP candidate and fixed the matter for consideration in September, 2026.

The Assembly elections were held May 10, 2023, and the results were announced on May 13.

Faculty members mark registration numbers for the second-year PUC exam, at a college in Bengaluru on Friday. The examinations will commence on Saturday. DH PHOTO/ B K JANARDHAN

Attendance shortage: Hall tickets not issued to over 1k IIPU students

BENGALURU, DHNS

As many as 1,005 students will not be appearing for the second-year PU examinations starting Saturday owing to their failure to ensure 75% attendance. In accordance with the regulations laid down by the Karnataka School Examination and Assessment Board (KSEAB) and the PU Education Department, hall tickets were not generated for students who had less than 75% attendance.

However, the number of students not appearing for the exam owing to attendance shortage is markedly lower this year – in 2025, a staggering 6,547 students could not write the examinations because of a shortfall in attendance.

Students denied the opportunity to appear in the first round of examinations can, however, appear for the second and third rounds of the examinations, albeit as private candidates.

"There is a provision allowing principals to waive off the shortage in cases wherein the students have been absent owing to ill-health. Hall tickets have not been issued to those, the names of whom were not present on the list of students shared by principals of colleges," said a PU Education Department official.

As many as 7,10,363 students from across 5,174 colleges have registered for the first round of the exam scheduled between February 28 and March 17. Of these, 2,82,645 students are from the Science stream, while 2,11,174 are from Commerce, and 1,42,982 students are from the Arts stream.

Meanwhile, the Department of School Education and Literacy has warned miscreants against disseminating rumours about papers being leaked. The department has reminded everyone that legal action will be initiated against those spreading such rumours.

On Saturday, students will appear for either Kannada or Arabic papers, with the examination being held between 10am to 1pm.

KSEAB will web-stream the examinations to ensure students don't indulge in any malpractice. Students are prohibited from carrying electronic devices including mobile phones, smart watches and earphones to the examination centres. In fact, officers and staff deployed either on security or examination duty are prohibited from using their mobile phones. However, the examination centre superintendent is permitted to use a basic mobile phone that does not have an in-built camera.

Meanwhile, students are entitled to free rides on board Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation and Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation buses provided they furnish their ID cards and hall ticket.

In a bid to help students cope with stress, KSEAB has launched a helpline – 080-23320075/76.

Attendance rule

Rule 21 of the Karnataka Education Act, 2006 stipulates that students must compulsorily have 75% attendance if they are to be eligible for appearing in the final examination. This rule applies to first-year PU students, and those in undergraduate, post-graduate and professional courses. The Supreme Court too has issued an order mandating this requirement.

GST Intelligence busts Rs 593 crore fake invoice fraud

BELAGAVI, DHNS: In a major crackdown on GST fraud, officers of the Directorate General of GST Intelligence (DGGI), Belagavi Zonal Unit, have unearthed a massive fake Input Tax Credit (ITC) racket involving the use of fraudulent invoices worth approximately Rs 593 crore.

The action followed an investigation into a suspicious GST registration, which led to multiple search operations at premises linked to Star Tax Consultant in Bengaluru. The searches exposed a well-organised network engaged in issuing fake invoices without any actual supply of goods or services, enabling wrongful availment and passing on of ITC amounting to nearly Rs 235 crore.

Preliminary investigation revealed that numerous GST registrations were being operated by accused solely for generating bogus invoices and e-way bills to facilitate fraudulent ITC claims by ultimate beneficiaries. The accused systematically used online accounting software to record and monitor transactions routed through several shell entities with no genuine business activity.

Mohammad Saifullah, a registered GST practitioner identified as the mastermind of the operation, was found to be managing multiple non-existent and shell GSTINs and orchestrating issuance of fake invoices and e-way bills in exchange for commission. Upon being confronted with incriminating evidence, he admitted to his role in the fraudulent scheme.

He was arrested on February 24 in Bengaluru and was remanded in judicial custody.

◆ WEATHER ◆

Overview: Dry weather prevailed over Coastal Karnataka, South Interior Karnataka and North Interior Karnataka

Forecast Feb 28: Dry weather likely to prevail over the state.

INTERIOR NORTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Belagavi	32.8	15.6	00
Bidar	32.4	18.8	00
Vijayapura	33.2	15	00
Dharwad	32.6	15.5	00
Haveri	33.4	22.4	00
Kalaburagi	36.2	20.8	00
Raichur	33.4	20	00
COASTAL			
Honnavar	32.8	18.8	00
Karwar	34.2	20	00
Shirali	NA	NA	NA
Mangaluru	32.5	23.4	00

INTERIOR SOUTH

Stations	Max	Min	Rain
Agumbe	31.1	15.1	00
Bengaluru	31.5	21.3	00
Ballari	NA	NA	00
Chamarajanagar	NA	NA	NA
Chikkamagaluru	NA	NA	NA
Chitradurga	33.1	21	00
Davangere	32.5	17	00
Hassan	31.8	13.4	00
Mysuru	32.6	20	00
Madikeri	NA	NA	NA
Kolar	31.4	17.2	00

OTHER STATIONS

New Delhi	30.2	13.1	00
Kolkata	30.6	18.7	00
Mumbai	30.7	20.2	00
Chennai	33.5	23.4	00
Pune	33.3	14.7	00
Hyderabad	33.3	20.7	00
Th'puram	33.9	24.6	00

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ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ನಗರ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ

Dr. MANMOHAN SINGH BENGALURU CITY UNIVERSITY

Office of the Registrar, Central College Campus, Dr. B.R AmbedkarVeedhi, Bengaluru – 560 001. E-mail: registrar@bcu.ac.in

Tender No: BCU/2025-26/SE0007 Date: 27-02-2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through KPPP portal only)

Name of the work	Empanelment Of Government Project Management Consultant For Construction, Special Repair, And Renovation Works At Dr. Manmohan Singh Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru, Karnataka
EMD	**Rs. 3,00,000/-**
Last date for queries	**06.03.2026 Up to 16.30 hrs.**
Pre Bid meeting date and place	**07-03-2026 at 15.00 hrs Registrar's Office, Administrative Block, Central College Campus. Dr. Manmohan Singh Bengaluru City University, Bengaluru**
Last date for submission of Tender	**20.03.2026 Up to 16.30hrs.**
Opening of the Technical Bid	**23.03.2026 at 11.00 hrs.**

Note: Payment of Tender processing fee and EMD amount as per E-procurement Portal.

DIPR/CP/5907/SSC/2025-26

Sd/- Registrar

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF AGRICULTURE, STATE PESTICIDE TESTING LABORATORY, KOTNOOR, D, KALABURAGI-585102
Phone No:-8277931503 Email id:ddaiclkg@gmail.com

No:-dda/sptl/kk/e-Tender/2025-26 Date:27/02/2026

:: E-TENDER NOTIFICATION ::

Agriculture Department is implementing various Development Programmes in the state. The Department intends for Supply of Laboratory Instrument/ Equipments to office of the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Kotnoor, d, Kalaburagi. Hence invites short term tenders through Government of Karnataka E-Procurement portal as per below Details.
1) Work Specification : Supply of Laboratory Instrument/Equipments to office of the State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Kotnoor, d, Kalaburagi, 2) Head of Account: 2401-00-800-1-73, 106, 3) Uploading of tender on e-portal (Submission is only through e-portal, hard copies are not accepted): **From 02/03/2026 11:00 AM,** 4) Tender Processing fee to be paid to e-governance account : As per e-portal, 5) Approximate Tender Value : **Rs. 55,50,000/-**, 6) EMD: Rs.111000/-, 7) Last date and time for tender queries : **09/03/2026 4:00 PM,** 8) Last date for uploading tender of interest in the prescribed format on e-procurement portal : **12/03/2026 5:00 PM,** 9) Time and date of opening of the technical bid: **13/03/2026 at 11:00 AM,** 10) Time and date of opening of the Financial bid : Will be intimated later, 11) Place of opening the tenders: Deputy Director of Agriculture Kotnoor, D, Kalaburagi, 12) Address for any clarification : Deputy Director of Agriculture Kotnoor ,D, Kalaburagi-585102 Phone no:8277931503 E-mail:-ddaiclkg@gmail.com

Sd/- Deputy Director of Agriculture State Pesticide Testing Laboratory, Kotnoor, D, Kalaburagi,

DIPR/Kalaburagi/1130/KSMC&A/2025-26

Put up notice boards in Tahsildar offices to provide info on Sakala applications: HC

AMBARISH B
BENGALURU, DHNS

The high court has directed the principal secretary, Revenue Department, to ensure that the notice boards in offices of the Tahsildars henceforth indicate the information about pending and disposed applications in terms of the provisions of the Sakala Act (Karnataka Sakala Services Act, 2011).

"This court is being flooded with such writ petitions seeking a writ of mandamus directing the tahsildars to enter the name of the purchasers in the revenue records. These are surely unnecessary litigation that are brought before this court. If the tahsildars do their duty in terms of the law and the directions issued by this court, there is no need for the purchasers who have acquired title to come before this court seeking directions to the tahsildars," Justice R Devdas said while further directing the Principal Secretary to file a compliance report within a period of four weeks.

The petitioner in the case at hand, Annapurneshwari Builders and Developers Private Limited, had contended that the Tahsildar, Bengaluru North Taluk, did not enter their name in the revenue records pursuant to the registered sale deed. The registered sale deed was of March 15, 2023, and the entries were not made even after submitting a representation on December 2, 2025.

The court pointed out that as per sections 127 and 128 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, the purchasers under registered sale deeds need not even file an application seeking mutation entry of their names in the revenue records. A 'J' slip generated by the Sub-Registrar will be forwarded to the Tahsildar, who is required to enter the name of the purchasers in the revenue records.

Perusing the provisions under the Act, it said that the statute provides a guarantee of services to citizens within the stipulated time limit and every designated officer and his subordinate is saddled with a duty to provide such services and also display the same on the notice board in their offices. "It is also surprising that the competent officers under the Act, 2011 have not complied with the provisions of the Act since not monitoring the applications, not providing information on the notice boards and not taking action against the Tahsildars for failure on their part to provide the services within the time stipulated in the schedule of the Act," Justice Devdas said.

The court noted that under the heading 'Revenue Department', at serial number 26 (in the schedule of the Act), the designated officer (Tahsildar) must effect the change of khata (undisputed cases), within 60 days. "Such being the position and provision of law and this court being flooded with such writ petitions alleging inaction on the part of the tahsildars to change the khata, based on registered instruments and orders/judgments/ decrees of the competent court, which would mean that these are undisputed cases, such inaction would be clearly in violation of the provisions in the Act."

Every third adult in K'taka affected by metabolic syndrome: Study

Docs warn of lower quality of life and increased healthcare costs

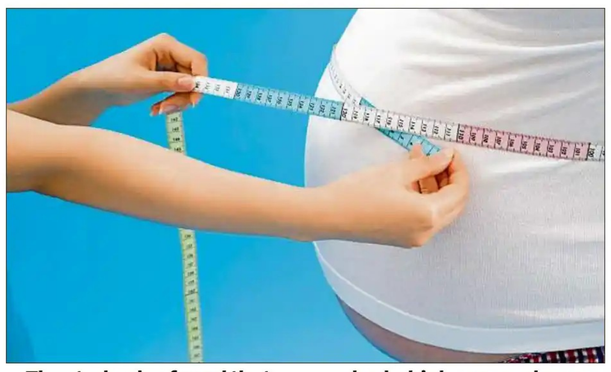
AMULLYA SHIVASHANKAR
BENGALURU, DHNS

A study by the *International Journal of Medical and Pharmaceutical Research* shows that metabolic syndrome affects nearly every third adult in Karnataka.

The study titled 'Prevalence and Risk Factors of Metabolic Syndrome in Karnataka' considered both men and women from urban and rural settings. Doctors in Bengaluru warn that it is a growing public health challenge. The earlier onset will result in lesser workforce, lower quality of life and increased healthcare costs, they add.

"This is an alarming future burden of chronic non-communicable disease and has a lot of consequences. Abdominal obesity is one of the most-common components of metabolic syndrome. These people do not appear to be overweight but they carry more fat around their waist area," Dr Narendra B S, Lead Consultant, Endocrinology and Diabetology at a private hospital, told *DH*.

"This is generally followed by borderline elevated blood sugar and abnormally low High Density Lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol and high or elevated triglycerides."



The study also found that women had a higher prevalence of metabolic syndrome at 36% compared to men at 28%.
PHOTO FOR REPRESENTATION

The study highlighted that 35% of the samples showed elevated triglycerides and 30% having low HDL. "This means that we are looking at a hidden lipid crisis even at people who look healthy outside as HDL and triglycerides do not show symptoms early on. This will increase the chances of heart disease and fatty livers," said Dr Mahesh D M, Senior Consultant, Endocrinology.

"A decade ago, we were seeing people in their 40s and 50s showing up with such health issues but now we have people in their 20s," he added.

The study also found that women had a higher prevalence of metabolic syndrome at 36% compared to men at 28%.

Speaking about the same, Dr Pramila Kalra, Senior Consultant, Department of Endocrinology, said, "Women are more predisposed because of hormones at different phases of their reproductive cycle. The weight gained during pregnancy and gestational diabetes also leads to metabolic syndrome. Menopause is a main contributor for the syndrome."

She continued: "Menopause leads to estrogen deficiency in women, which also leads to whistle fat pushing women into diabetes, hypertension and further to heart issues as well."

Doctors believe that screening for the general public should begin in late 20s and for people with obesity or high cholesterol in early 20s.

Pakistan bombs Kabul ...

Afghanistan, From Page 1

On the other hand, Taliban government spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said Afghan forces killed 55 Pakistani soldiers and captured several others, while putting the death toll among Afghan troops at 13.

Islamabad accuses Afghanistan of failing to act against militant groups that carry out attacks in Pakistan, which the Taliban government denies. Most of the attacks have been claimed by the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), a militant group that has stepped up assaults in Pakistan since the Afghan Taliban returned to power.

Taliban government spokesman Mujahid said Afghanistan wanted "dialogue" to resolve the conflict.

"We have repeatedly emphasised a peaceful solution, and still want the problem to be resolved through dialogue," Mujahid told a news conference, adding: "Right now, Pakistani planes are flying over Afghanistan's airspace."

Growth upgraded to 7.6% in new GDP series

GDP, from Page 1

In the new series, the 2023-24 GDP growth number has been revised downward to 7.2% from 9.2%, while 2024-25 numbers revised upward to 7.1% from 6.5%.

"If we look at the levels, the real GDP has increased significantly in the new base when compared to the old base because of better coverage and use of double-digit deflation and other methodological changes," SBI Research said.

The size of the Indian economy is estimated to be smaller in the new series with 2022-23 base year than the old series with 2011-12 base.

The nominal GDP for FY2024 and FY2025 is 3.8% lower as per the new series when compared with the old series.

For the current financial year, the nominal GDP as per the second advance estimate with 2022-23 base year is 3.3% lower than the first advance estimate as per the old series.

"This implies that the fiscal deficit-to-GDP ratio would be 15-20 bps higher on average during these years as compared to the previous estimates. More importantly, this would also imply a fiscal deficit target of 4.46% of GDP for FY2027, as against the 4.3% assumed in the budget, assuming a nominal GDP growth of 10% in the fiscal," said Aditi Nayar, Chief Economist, ICRA.

82-yr-old man arrested after 41 years in assault case

DAVANGERE, DHNS: The Davangere police have succeeded in arresting a man wanted in an assault case 41 years after the commission of the offence.

The arrested has been identified as Hanumanthappa (82), a resident of Haluvarthi in Davangere taluk.

He was produced in the court and remanded in judicial custody.

Land dispute

Hanumanthappa was accused of attacking a woman over a land dispute.

The police had filed a charge sheet to the court in the case.

However, Hanumanthappa did not appear before the court for hearing and the case was included in the the list of unsolved cases in 1989.

Team formed

On the instructions of Superintendent of Police H T Shekhar, a team led by Inspector Annaiah K T was formed to trace the accused. After a search the police found the accused in Halekallu village in the taluk.

It is confirmed that two more accused in the case have died, the police said.

Liquor case: Kejriwal, Sisodia & Kavitha discharged

Kejriwal, From Page 1

It pointed out that though there was no statutory or constitutional requirement to obtain suggestions from the Lieutenant Governor, the file notings unmistakably reflected that such suggestions were nevertheless sought, examined, and incorporated.

After examining the charge sheets and related materials, the court said the very foundation on which the prosecution seeks to construct the narrative of conspiracy, centred around alleged payment of "upfront money" and its purported recoupment, stands fundamentally eroded.

"Private persons who sought to derive commercial advantage from a policy validly framed and lawfully implemented, without any established violation of policy conditions or statutory prohibitions, cannot be compelled to face the rigours of criminal prosecution. This court finds no apparent breach of restrictions relating to 'related entities' or any other policy condition which could, by itself, attract criminal liability," the court said.

The judge also took exception to the CBI's move to rope in Kejriwal as accused on the basis of a statement of a witness by seeking to project him as the central figure who allegedly manipulated the policy.

"There is no material to show his presence at any conspiratorial meeting or to indicate his knowledge of any unlawful arrangement. The attempt to implicate him rests on inference drawn from an uncorroborated accomplice-like statement," the court said.

The court pointed out the consequences of such actions are even more serious where the person concerned holds a constitutional office.

The court also expressed its displeasure with the CBI for using the phrase "South Group" while cautioning it to exercise restraint in its choice of language.

"The court considers it necessary to place on record its concern with the repeated and deliberate use of the expression, 'South Group', by the investigating agency to describe a set of accused persons, ostensibly based on their regional origin or place of residence," the judge said.

The judge similarly found no prima facie material against Sisodia. "There is no evidence placing him in any clandestine meeting or conspiratorial assembly," he said.

The court held the policy choices, even if debatable or subsequently reconsidered, cannot be equated with criminal conspiracy in the absence of material demonstrating quid pro quo, concealment or corrupt inducement.

It also rejected the CBI's allegations of manipulation of public views, received through emails in respect of the liquor policy and destruction of mobile phones to conceal the evidence.

"To attribute criminal design to an entire policy framework on the basis of six emails out of more than 14,000 emails is akin to attempting to pierce an elephant with a needle, the scale of the allegation is wholly disproportionate to the magnitude of the inference sought to be drawn." the court said.

D K Shivakumar loyalists' dinner meet triggers buzz

Congress, from Page 1

The presence of several first-time legislators also reflected their expectations after Shivakumar reportedly backed their demand for Cabinet berths, even as Siddaramaiah has ruled out inducting freshers.

Mandya MLA Ravi Ganiga said, "CM and DCM are the same to me. The government is running well. But my wish is to see D K Shivakumar become the CM."

Channapatna MLA C P Yogeshwar confirmed the turnout: "About 30 to 40 MLAs met for dinner."

Mudigere MLA Nayana Motamma said, "Shivakumar is my political mentor. If he becomes CM, I will be happy. I will meet the high command and speak in his favour."

Chamaraja MLA K Harish Gowda—who had earlier supported a full term for Siddaramaiah —also attended the meeting. Senior legislator Tanveer Sait cautioned that speculation itself is damaging.

"It is embarrassing for the party. Some claim they have got a green signal that Siddaramaiah will continue for a full term. This creates confusion among party workers," he said.

Public Works Minister Satish Jarkiholi, considered close to Siddaramaiah, said, "Leaders are free to meet just like we have had dinner meetings earlier. Uncertainty is not good for governance. I met Mallikarjun Kharge and he has given as assurance that clarity will emerge soon."

Dismissing attempts to term the event a "show of strength", Shivakumar said, "Some go to Delhi and some go abroad on personal tours. I urge the MLAs not to go to Delhi for my sake... Some wish to become ministers and there is nothing wrong in it. I will represent their case when I go to Delhi."

DECCAN HERALD
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Case closed, probe on trial

The discharge of Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) leader and former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and 22 others in the Delhi excise policy case has lent credence to charges of government-run persecution campaigns against opposition leaders. The Delhi Rouse Avenue Court's ruling and observations, while providing relief to those discharged, including former deputy chief minister Manish Sisodia and Telangana politician K Kavitha, are also an indictment of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), which conducted the probe. Finding "no overarching conspiracy or criminal intent" behind the excise policy, the court said the CBI attempted to construct a narrative of conspiracy "based on conjecture rather than concrete evidence". There is no legal merit in the charge of manipulation presented in the prosecution's case, it observed. In the ruling, the court also noted contradictions in the case and discrepancies in the methods the CBI employed during the investigation.

The CBI registered its case in August 2022 under various sections, charging that Rs 100 crore was paid by a lobby to influence the excise policy in favour of certain manufacturers. Kejriwal, then the chief minister, and others who were arrested and jailed had to fight long legal battles to secure bail. It should be noted that the discharge is not the final affirmation of the innocence of the accused – it is not an acquittal after trial. The court has ordered termination of the proceedings altogether as the charges have not been found substantial enough to warrant a trial.

The ruling in the Delhi excise policy case strengthens charges against politically weaponised agency action

For Kejriwal, who broke down after the verdict, this is a vindication of his position that he was being hounded for political reasons. The CBI said it would appeal the ruling in the High Court. Kejriwal and the others are also facing an Enforcement Directorate (ED) case with similar charges. However, the court's ruling is emphatic, and the observation that the case fails judicial scrutiny underlines the suspicion raised over the case's political designs. The judge, Jitendra Singh, concluded his order by citing a quote by Martin Luther King Jr: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere". The Central government and the BJP had made much of the case, steering political narratives to cause serious setbacks to Kejriwal, including a loss of reputation and power in Delhi. What the ruling does to the political stakes of the former chief minister remains to be seen. But it supplements the larger Opposition bloc's long-held contention that investigating agencies are being used to secure political gains.

Regulating screens: The law has limits

Karnataka's proposal to examine a ban or strict regulation on mobile phone and social media use for children aged under 16 merits a cautious welcome. By recognising that parental authority alone often proves inadequate against escalating digital risks, the state is venturing into a terrain it has long sidestepped. The government has anchored the initiative in pressing concerns: surging digital addiction, declining academic performance, mental health deterioration, and unchecked exposure to harmful online content. The post-pandemic era has amplified these challenges, with children immersed in devices at unprecedented levels – screens doubling as classrooms, playgrounds, and escapist havens. At the heart of this effort lies the government's mobile *bidi, pustaka hidi* (drop the mobile, pick up a book) campaign, which seeks to wrest childhood back from the grip of infinite scrolls and restore it to the cognitive and emotional richness of physical books and libraries.

The decision to form a multidisciplinary expert committee is, therefore, crucial. Rather than imposing a blanket ban, this panel will study the neurological, psychological, educational, and technological dimensions of early mobile exposure. Research by the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) links excessive screen time in children to attention deficits, sleep disturbances, anxiety, and addictive behaviour. Physically, it promotes sedentary lifestyles, while socially, the pursuit of constant online validation erodes resilience and impairs real-world interactions. At the same time, a poorly designed ban carries its own perils. In rural and low-income households, where many families rely on a single mobile phone, these devices often serve as the primary conduit to educational resources. Schools, too, depend heavily on digital tools. An abrupt prohibition, in the absence of robust alternatives, could widen the digital divide and push risky behaviour underground.

The health risks of digital addiction are real, but policy must be backed by parental accountability

Karnataka is not alone in recognising the dangers of unregulated access. Australia has imposed legal obligations on platforms to block under-16 users, while the United Kingdom and France have focused on phone-free schools and age verification. China has opted for strict time limits. The common thread is the acknowledgement that unfettered digital access during childhood is no longer acceptable. Regulation can only set the outer boundary. What matters more is self-regulation within families. Too often, parents take the easy way out, using phones to pacify children rather than indulging in meaningful engagement. Government action may help restore the balance, but parental responsibility cannot be outsourced to the State; the irreplaceable bond of family must bridge the chasm between digital distractions and the tangible richness of the real world.

CHARACTER TRIALS

Moral inquiry distorts the adjudication of rape

Rape justice in India hinges more on technical grounds and moral audits than on consent and sexual autonomy

JWALIKA BALAJI AND MANDAR PRAKHAR

Rape adjudication in India now revolves around various factors, often making the law seem less important. In February 2026, the Chhattisgarh High Court held that ejaculation without penetration did not meet the statutory definition of rape under Section 375 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). While the ruling is foregrounded in the sine qua non status of penetration, the facts recorded were stark. The accused forcibly undressed the victim, tied her up, rubbed his genitals against hers and ejaculated. The conduct was evidently violent, non-consensual, and deeply invasive, yet the conviction was scaled down to an attempt because penetration couldn't be established.

This case exposes a structural problem larger than the verdict itself. At its core, what rape trials require is a disciplined inquiry based on two determinants: first, whether the assailant's act satisfies the statutory requirements of the offence, and second, whether consent as defined by law was obtained. This is simply the task. Yet rape adjudication across Indian courtrooms often disregards the law or, worse, wanders into inquiries of moral conjecture.

Section 63 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita replicates its IPC counterpart, which was overhauled after the 2013 amendment inspired by the Justice Verma Committee Report ('The Committee Report'). This reform project was a deliberate attempt to shift rape laws from antiquated notions of ideal victimhood towards bodily autonomy and integrity. Yet in practice, courts often err on this framework.

While criminal law necessitates a certain degree of precision to define offences, when these definitions shield the assailants from justice, we must inspect whether the intended purpose of the law is being served. Peno-vaginal penetration is sufficient to establish rape, but not necessary, per the textual definition of rape. The Chattisgarh verdict instantiates the difficulty when it is treated as the sole marker of the offence. This judicial pattern appears across cases where, despite the assailant's coercive and violent conduct, courts rule out rape unless penetration is conclusively established. This confinement to strict technical grounds without any reading of broader contexts makes the letter of the law indifferent to survivors' lived realities.

The striking aspect in such verdicts is not the sole emphasis on penetration but the minimal consideration given to consent. In this case, where a woman was coercively overpowered, undressed, and forcibly tied up, the lack of consent becomes obviously self-evident. Yet at the heart of the judicial reasoning lies a glaring oversight of the violation of individual autonomy.

The Committee Report carefully cu-

rated consent as the heart of rape as defined under Section 375. Furthermore, it achieved a two-fold expansion – the ambit of rape in IPC to include forcible oral sex as well as any kind of touching of the vagina. This exemplifies the fact that the Report was trying to move away from the antiquated notions of what was conceived as sex (peno-vaginal penetration). However, courts continue to hyper-fixate on penetration, ignoring the text of a provision that was conceptually expanded to recognise bodily dignity and autonomy.

The larger threat that emerges from patterns of rape adjudication is that while navigating these technical elements, courts often tread into unnecessary terrain when examining the complainant's conduct. In many cases, they delve into moral inquiries on previous relationships with the accused, the survivors' sexual history, concerns of 'promiscuity', or the lack of resistance from the survivors. These questions are rooted in the Madonna-whore dichotomy: women perceived as virtuous are 'ideal victims' whereas their sexually active or socially independent counterparts are treated with suspicion. The Committee Report underscored that these stereotypes should not influence judicial decision-making. While the statutory definition of consent does not recognise such distinctions, the stereotypes around sexuality subtly influence credibility assessments of the survivors.

A coloured lens of judgment

The discourse does not end here, but gets compounded when cases involving allegations of rape on the pretext of marriage are dealt with. The moral discomfort in discussing sexuality often overshadows the conversation on consent; courts end up commenting on women's sexuality and the immorality of certain kinds of sex rather than focusing on the grave violations of sexual autonomy at hand. Justice Nagarathna's recent remark on this subject, while hearing such a matter, exemplifies this issue. She cautioned young adults against indulging in physical relationships before marriage, as no one can be trusted before marriage. She also questioned the unmarried woman alleging rape as to why she had travelled to the country where the accused lived and engaged in sexual activity with him.

Whatever the intent, this episode illustrates the inherent biases and stereotypes attached to sexuality, premarital sex in this case, which evidently influences the outcomes of cases. Furthermore, the evidence statute states that a person's prior sexual experience is irrelevant to the question of consent or the quality of it. Courts seemingly ignore this textual mandate when hearing matters relating to sexual assault.

Notably, while Justice Nagarathna's observation exposes the stigma surrounding sex outside of marriage, the irony is amplified because non-consensual sex within marriage is still not fully recognised as rape, except in limited circumstances. This is because marital rape is not criminalised in India; doctrinally, it is still treated as an exception to rape. Thus, simply put, sexual autonomy outside marriage is scrutinised, while inside marriage it is often stripped of recognition. And again, moral conjecture dethrones voluntary consent as the heart of judicial reasoning.

Rape adjudication should stick to the law, focus on consent, and not engage in a moral audit of survivors. Until this happens, survivors will be robbed of the justice envisioned for them in the 2013 amendments.

(Jwalika is a research fellow, and Mandar is an associate fellow at the Vidhi Centre for Legal Policy)

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

A guardian angel in a white coat

From free care for the poor to civic battles, the doctor lived a life of quiet service

ADITYA MUKHERJEE

We reacted with disbelief to the news of the death of 90-year-old Dr Bose. Just a few days earlier, he had spoken to his countless well-wishers of his resolve to get back on his feet and return to his usual hectic life as a doctor. But pneumonia intervened. Like Dr Juvenal Urbino of *Love in the Time of Cholera*, Dr Bose was the colony's most erudite doctor and an esteemed public figure. He was a guardian angel to his poorer patients, whom he treated free of cost at his clinic and often helped with money from his own pocket.

I first met Dr Bose 14 years ago at his clinic when I sought medical advice for a health issue. He was a man of many parts — a social activist, poet, and self-taught painter. He also possessed an almost maniacal sense of civic duty that was deeply inspiring. His determination to find solutions to the colony's civic problems, working in tandem with the local authorities, earned him profound respect. He even suggested that, as a resident of the same locality, I should join him in his mission and support his cause.

As a newly converted admirer, I would meet the bright-eyed, bushy-tailed Dr Bose daily in the neighbourhood park during his morning walks. Full of *joie de vivre*, he greeted fellow walkers warmly and enquired about their well-being.

Dr Bose reached his clinic at 9.30 sharp every morning. People of all ages waited patiently for their turn, placing immense faith in his treatment. An FRCS from London, he came to Delhi in the late seventies and settled in a private colony. He retired from a government hospital. He had a deep love for nature and was indefatigable in his efforts to protect the environment. Every year, a few days before Diwali, he would lead a procession of children and residents, carrying placards and urging people to celebrate the festival without crackers.

Around seven years ago, the authorities decided to build an underground parking lot by taking over a large portion of the main park—the colony's green lung. Panic rippled through the neighbourhood. Dr Bose resolved to lance the boil of official indifference. He mobilised residents and launched a campaign to persuade the authorities to reverse their decision. I, too, joined the march. Finally, after residents dug in their heels, the plan for underground parking construction was shelved.

Dr Bose was a role model for the entire colony. He taught us that when adversity strikes, we must face it with courage rather than inflate our troubles—whatever they may be—into matters of cosmic import, a sure path to misery. We will always miss you, Dr Bose.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A poll-winning strategy but bad economics

Apropos 'DCM reiterates guarantees are a 'burden' but will continue' (Feb 27), it has taken just over half a term in office for the Congress government to realise that the guarantees that catapulted it to power are a 'burden' on the exchequer. The guarantees were doubtless a winning strategy, but it was bad economics, as in the heat of the election campaign, the Congress perhaps didn't fully appreciate that the outlay for a full five-year term would be huge and drain the exchequer. Left to itself, the government would have done well to rethink the guarantees, but that would be bad electoral strategy.
C V Aravind, Bengaluru

Let Constitution prevail

I refer to 'When the State polices marriages' (Feb 27). The Gujarat government's proposal to require parental consent for marriage registration infringes on individual freedom and privacy. Marriage is a personal choice, protected by the Constitution. Instead of imposing restrictions, the government should safeguard constitutional values and ensure adults can make their own decisions without fear.
Aaron Bruce, Bengaluru

Academic freedom

The Supreme Court's directive to remove a chapter on judicial corruption from an NCERT textbook raises concerns about stifling critical discussion. Shielding students from institutional challenges doesn't prepare them for informed citizenship. Education should encourage questioning and analytical thinking, balancing respect for institutions with academic freedom.
Ananya Ghosh, Bengaluru

Israel visit concerning

The Prime Minister's visit to Israel raises concerns about India's regional relations and neutrality. Aligning with Israel amid regional tensions could jeopardise India's non-aligned stance. The visit's timing and implications warrant careful consideration.
V Padmanabhan, Bengaluru

Responsible tech use

I refer to 'State to frame policy to regulate digital content use by kids' (Feb 24). Regulating minors' mobile use is necessary, but awareness about online dangers and constructive use of free time are equally vital.
Sampada Pai, Bengaluru

Our readers are welcome to email letters to: **letters@deccanherald.co.in** (only letters emailed – not handwritten – will be accepted). All letters must carry the sender's postal address and phone number.

SPEAK OUT

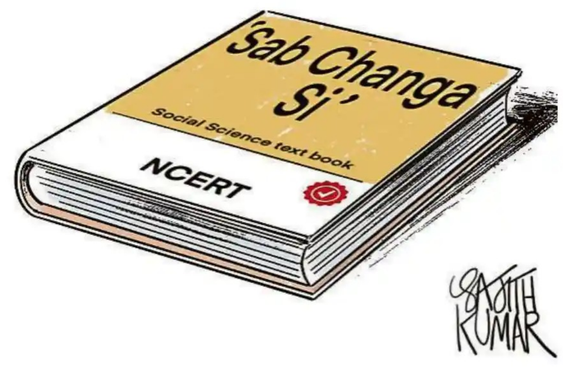
I have joined the DMK. I will work and support the DMK as a cadre.

O Panneerselvam,
Former Tamil Nadu CM

Politics makes strange bedfellows, and even stranger alliances.

Charles Dudley Warner

TO BE PRECISE



IN PERSPECTIVE

Why neutrality matters in science

Scientific institutions must be distanced from formal religious rituals to foster the spirit of shared inquiry

RAVINDER BANYAL

Every year, National Science Day (February 28) offers an opportunity not only to celebrate discoveries but also to reflect on the culture of science itself. This culture is expressed in the spaces we create, the values we embed, and the norms we pass on to those entering the scientific enterprise. Institutions shape minds not only through curricula and research, but through everyday practices that quietly signal what is normal, and who feels at home.

In many scientific and educational institutions, religious ceremonies and observances are now commonplace. For some, they offer familiarity and comfort; for others, they evoke unease. This tension raises an important question: what does neutrality mean in shared scientific spaces?

Refraining from organising such events within institutional premises does not imply a dismissal of faith or tradition. Nor is it a call to abandon cultural or religious heritage. The moot question is whether religious rituals should be conducted publicly in institutions dedicated to scientific pursuits?

Institutionalised rituals are often deemed inclusive because everyone is free to participate. But inclusivity is not just about permission; it depends on whether participation is effortless or places the burden of adjustment on individuals.

When a ritual drawn from a majority culture becomes routine in shared institutional spaces, students and staff from non-dominant belief systems may participate out of courtesy, conformity, or a quiet need to belong. What is rarely asked is whether this ease would exist in reverse – whether the majority would feel equally comfortable participating in the rituals and celebrations of other traditions. In this asymmetry, consensus is sustained not by force but through a subtle social cost that largely remains invisible to the majority. For those outside the dominant culture, opting out may feel less like a choice and more like a social transgression. Academic institutions should be alert to such unexamined normalisation and unintended alienation.

Scientific institutions exist to produce reliable knowledge through rigorous, open, and evidence-based inquiry. Rituals, by design, seek to ward off fear, promise certainty and success, and keep failures at bay. Science, by contrast, advances by questioning and embracing uncertainty, treating failure not as a stigma but as an essential step in the process of discovery. It requires a commitment to methodological rigour, intellectual honesty, scepticism, risk-taking, and the freedom to question. These qualities flourish best in symbolically neutral spaces. It is counterproductive when the energy of young researchers is divided between the pursuit of scientific knowledge and the management of symbols and rituals.

A similar asymmetry is visible in the routine functioning of mainstream science. Conferences, workshops, and academic events are often opened with invocations to a particular deity or marked by the ceremonial exchange of religious symbols and texts. These practices may be well-intentioned, but they establish a cultural default that is not neutral. For participants from different faiths, or from no faith at all, such gestures introduce an unnecessary layer of symbolic imbalance into spaces that are meant to be professionally universal.

Meaningful alternatives

Academic institutions already sustain vibrant forms of shared life through regular seminars, lively debates, informal interactions, collaborative work, public outreach, and activities centred on music, art, and sport. These are not peripheral; they are central to how academic communities can build connection, curiosity, and create shared meaning.

Beyond this, if we wish to celebrate learning and seek inspiration collectively, we must be willing to invent imaginative ways that are inclusive in both spirit and form, and carry meaning and solemnity without invoking a specific tradition. A conference might begin with the planting of a sapling, a brief acknowledgement of what remains unknown, or by reflecting on a major unsolved problem. Designing and adopting such alternatives is not a departure from scientific pursuit; it is an extension of it.

The outside world is shaped by identity, belief, and differences. These are important aspects of human life. But the laboratory, classroom, and research campus can offer something distinct: a space of shared inquiry rather than shared beliefs, where these differences need not be negotiated at every step. This does not require anyone to renounce their personal convictions. On the contrary, there is dignity in keeping faith within personal boundaries, drawing strength from it privately, while bringing one's full professional self to the workplace.

In doing so, we do not diminish tradition; we strengthen the conditions for good science, which is vital for a self-reliant and forward-looking society.

(The writer is a scientist at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru)

The Narendra Modi govt has fully embraced Israel. Will India's silence on Gaza, where Tel Aviv has been accused of committing genocide, come back to haunt it in the long run?

The perils of short-term bets

CHARU SUDAN KASTURI

Standing before Israel's lawmakers earlier this week in the country's parliament, the Knesset, Prime Minister Narendra Modi praised his host nation lavishly.

"I bring with me the greetings of 1.4 billion Indians, and a message of friendship, respect, and partnership," he said. He spoke of how "in India, there is great admiration for Israel's resolve, courage, and achievements". By this point, he had also condoled the deaths of Israelis massacred by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and underscored the shared threat of terrorism that India and Israel have long faced.

But Modi did not once mention Gaza, only referring to the 'Palestinian issue' once — almost as a bureaucratic wrinkle to iron out, not a bloodbath unleashed on that territory by the government hosting him.

Eighteen years ago, India had found itself in a similar situation. Modi's predecessor and then prime minister Manmohan Singh was visiting the United States in September 2008. US President George W Bush was on his way out, and by then had secured his legacy in history as the architect of the deadly war on Iraq, built on lies and fabrications.

Yet Singh said something to Bush that sounds cringe-inducing even all these years later: "The people of India deeply love you."

There's a reason why Singh's words are worth recalling as the world — from conservative podcaster Tucker Carlson to Iran — dissects Modi's recent visit to Israel.

Successive Indian governments have struggled to balance immediate diplomatic and strategic gains against a long-term view on how history might judge them.

In the late 1980s, the then government of Rajiv Gandhi supported the Soviet-backed government of Mohammad Najibullah in Afghanistan, even when it was clear that his regime was built on oppression, was far from popular domestically, and would be remembered as Moscow's puppet. It was also evident by then that he was losing.

The short-term calculus made sense: Pakistan was arming and financing the mujahideen who were fighting Najibullah with US support. But, as a result, India lost a decade with Afghanistan in the 1990s when the Taliban rose to power. Might a more hands-off approach in the 1980s have helped?

When Singh visited Bush, India had much to rejoice about in terms of the state of bilateral ties: The just-finalised India-US nuclear deal paved the way for New Delhi to enter the big export control clubs, and opened access to nuclear technology and fuel that was previously hard to secure.

Yet Bush's illegal Iraq war will continue to haunt not just US foreign policy, but all those who backed it — or made peace with it. India never supported the Iraq war, but Singh's declaration of India's love for Bush will forever rankle as an obsequious and embarrassing moment for the country. After all, many rights advocates still believe Bush is guilty of war crimes.

Which brings us to Netanyahu and Modi, India and Israel.

There is no disputing all that Israel offers as a partner. No country has the defensive shield that Israel has, its Iron Dome, Iron Beam, and other technological marvels that every other nation craves. Its missiles and other military hardware have helped India repeatedly in wars, including as recently as last May, during the four-day air battle with Pakistan.

Israel's technological mastery in multiple sectors — from cyber security to agriculture — means that a close partnership could yield valuable dividends to India. Israel's intelligence support, too, could prove helpful for India.

But there is a flip side. Israeli spyware is known to have been used against Indian citizens, mostly critics of the Modi government. The government insists it did not deploy the spyware, Pegasus, against Indians. But if it didn't, shouldn't the prime minister have raised concerns over the episode with Netanyahu? There is no evidence that he did.

There is, however, ample evidence of Israeli violations of international and humanitarian law in Gaza, plans for illegal expansion in the West Bank, and rejection of the two-state solution.

India believes in upholding a rules-based global order, is opposed to Israel's illegal expansions, and stands in support of the two-state solution. Given this complete divergence in positions, should Modi have at least publicly nudged Netanyahu to return to the path of law-abiding nations?

Modi has repeatedly described Netanyahu as a "good friend" or "dear friend". Shouldn't good friends be able to disagree, and be able to tell each other they're wrong — when they are?

Ultimately though, India's calculus can't be based on the personal friendship between Modi and Netanyahu. Singh was wrong to have spoken on behalf of the people of India when he proclaimed that they loved Bush: All the evidence of that era suggests that Indians, by and large, were opposed to Bush's war on Iraq.

While many Indians do admire Israel's significant achievements in the technology and military spheres, there is again no evidence to justify Modi speaking on behalf of 1.4 billion people when it's about a nation accused of committing genocide.

To be sure, in geopolitics, like in life, there are no certainties. Nations must do what's necessary to defend their security, and fortify their defences.

But the challenge they face is to balance short- and medium-term goals with their vision of their larger place in history. The International Court of Justice is probing whether Israel is guilty of genocide in Gaza. A United Nations panel has concluded that Israel has committed genocide. The International Criminal Court is looking to arrest Netanyahu for alleged war crimes in Gaza. And in the court of public opinion, across much of the world, Israel is today seen as a brutal, arrogant, and genocidal force.

Keeping Israel close enough to benefit from what it offers, while keeping it at enough of a distance to avoid the taint of its actions, is the diplomatic juggle India's strategists would ideally want to manage.

The question then is whether Modi's visit helps accomplish that goal. The jury is out.

But history can be unforgiving. When Europe's leaders in the 1940s are judged today, anyone aligned with the wrong side of World War II is viewed as weak at best, and complicit with genocidaires at worst. No one weighs the short-term political, economic or diplomatic factors that might have made compromise, deals or adjustments with the Axis powers seem defensible.

Is India ready for a similar judgement if Israel and its prime minister are viewed as guilty of genocide by history? That's the question India's leadership must answer.

(The author is a senior journalist focusing on international relations, trade, energy, and technology. X: @CharuKasturi)

Trade Overview
India-Israel trade ties have been growing over the years. From $200 million in 1992 (the year diplomatic ties were established), merchandise trade reached
$10.77 billion
(excluding defence) in 2023. Since then, trade has declined due to regional security concerns and trade route disruptions.
India is Israel's second-largest country partner in Asia for merchandise trade, which focuses on pearls and precious stones, chemical and mineral products, automotive diesel, machinery and electrical equipment, plastics, textile and apparel products.

Visits by presidents and prime ministers

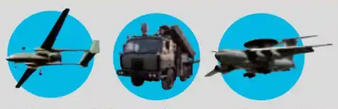
- 1996-1997 — **Ezer Weizman** becomes first Israeli President to visit India
- 2003 — **Ariel Sharon** becomes first Israeli Prime Minister to visit India
- 2015 — **Pranab Mukherjee** is first President of India to visit Israel
- 2016 — Israeli President **Reuven Rivlin** visits India
- 2017 — **Narendra Modi** visits Israel – first by an Indian prime minister
- 2018 — Israeli Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu** visits India
- 2026 — Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** visits Israel

India-Israel defence ties:

34% — At 34%, India is the largest single importer of Israeli arms

13% — At 13%, Israel is India's third-largest defence supplier

(SOURCE: SIPRI DATA FOR 2020-2024)



- Some of the major arms imports include UAVs (Heron, Searcher, and Harop), surface-to-air missile systems (LRSAM and MRSAM), air defence system (Spyder), many types of surveillance radars and Phalcon AWACS, among others.

A diplomatic embrace that will cost India dear

Bharat Bhushan

SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Unsinkable tubes to harvest energy from the ocean

Researchers developed aluminium structures that trap air bubbles, making them able to float even in the harshest environments, writes Kenneth Chang

Researchers say they have come up with a clever way to make aluminium tubes unsinkable by securely trapping air bubbles inside.

The tubes are narrow, about 1/5 inch in diameter. But stacked together, they could be assembled into larger structures used for floating platforms or devices to harvest energy from the undulations of ocean waves.

"I think the ocean is still a vast untapped resource," said Chunlei Guo, a professor of optics and of physics at the University of Rochester who led the work, published last month in the journal *Advanced Functional Materials*.

Or perhaps the technique will get you a nice floating chair for your swimming pool.

Even when tossed around or badly damaged with holes, the tubes remain buoyant.

"It will still stay floating," Guo said. "We have done quite extensive, really harsh environmental testing."

Andreas Ostendorf, a professor of applied laser technology at Ruhr-University Bochum in Germany who was not involved in the research, called the development "really interesting."

"As researchers, especially in engineering, we are always looking for disruptive ideas," he said. "This can be a road map toward really penetrating this technology in many applications."

Aluminium is among the lightest of metals, but it is still 2.7 times as dense as water. Drop a lump of that into the ocean, and it will sink.

Of course, metal objects like ships and empty soda cans float because the air within is lighter than water. But if the outer shell is punctured, water rushes in, and the formerly floating objects sink into the abyss.

To make aluminium tubes that are unsinkable, the Rochester scientists chemically etched microscopic pits on the structures' surfaces. Because of the surface tension of water, droplets cannot flow into the pits. Instead, they roll off almost instantly, and the surface remains dry.

This property is known as superhydrophobicity — extreme fear of water — and some creatures in nature take advantage of it. Similar to the tiny pits in the aluminium tubes, hairs on diving bell spiders and fire ants also repel water. The spiders use superhydrophobicity to trap air, allowing them to breathe underwater. Fire ants survive floods by linking together into waterproof rafts.

To make their aluminium tubes unsinkable, the Rochester scientists used chemical reactions to etch microscopic pits on the structures' surfaces. J ADAM FENSTER/UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Superhydrophobic surfaces have been known for decades, but have so far found limited practical use. Some medical implants have a water-repellent coating to prevent corrosion and bacterial infections.

Guo said he wanted to come up with applications for superhydrophobic surfaces that were "less straightforward."

A few years ago, his research group published a paper describing a floating structure consisting of two parallel superhydrophobic aluminium disks connected by a plastic post. The superhydrophobic surfaces prevented water from flowing into the narrow gap, preserving a layer of air between the disks.

It worked, but when the disks were tilted and shoved downward, the air could be pushed out. So the scientists started considering other geometries, and tubes proved more robust than disks, especially when a dividing wall was inside the tube. That would block water from flowing in from one end and out the other, pushing out the air bubble.

The superhydrophobic surfaces inside the tube again prevented water from entering and kept the air from escaping.

"This is very, very stable," Guo said.

They tested the resiliency of the tubes by weighing them down in both salty water and water with algae growing in it. Because the water was repelled, the insides of the tubes did not corrode, and algae could not grow there. Even drilling holes into the tubes did not destroy their ability to float.

Guo said they performed numerical analysis that showed stacking a few layers of tubes produced a structure that could survive the harshest of ocean conditions.

Ostendorf said more work was needed to demonstrate that the tubes would work in real-world situations. "There are some open questions, but the principle is very nice and very simple, and maybe can be scaled up," he said.

Guo and his colleagues have spent decades altering the properties of a material by placing microscopic patterns on the surface.

In 2008, Guo and Anatoliy Y. Vorobyev, another University of Rochester researcher, used lasers to pockmark metal surfaces in a way that still felt smooth but altered how the light was absorbed and reflected.

The result was aluminium that looked like gold and titanium that was navy blue.

Later, the scientists carved tiny channels in silicon to create surfaces that attract rather than repel water. They suggested that such surfaces, known as superhydrophilic — extreme attraction to water — could be used to cool computer chips.

Guo has also explored combining colourful metals and water-attracting surfaces. For example, he has used black metal to create a device known as a thermoelectric generator that absorbs heat from sunlight and other sources to generate electricity.

"You can harness any waste heat," Guo said. "Maybe next to the muffler underneath the car."

The study demonstrates a practical and potentially scalable breakthrough in applying superhydrophobic surface engineering to real-world challenges, particularly in marine and renewable energy contexts.

By creating lightweight, corrosion-resistant, and unsinkable building blocks that can be stacked into larger platforms, the work opens new possibilities for wave-energy harvesting, floating infrastructure, and durable marine devices.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

DID YOU KNOW?

Cellulose to recover rare earth elements

Despite rare earth elements' importance in manufacturing cell phones, magnets and a host of other consumer and commercial electronics, the lack of a sustainable, environmentally friendly approach to obtaining these metals has led to a global shortage, according to Amir Sheikhi, associate professor of chemical engineering at Pennsylvania State University, also the principal investigator on a paper recently published in Advanced Functional Materials that proposes a novel technology of isolating and recovering dysprosium, a rare earth element used to manufacture semiconductors, engines, generators and more.

The team used cellulose—an abundant and critical building block found in the walls of plant cells—to selectively separate dysprosium from other elements. According to the researchers, the approach is more environmentally friendly, as well as more sustainable and efficient than other commercial approaches.

The 17 metals classified as rare earth elements can be further categorised as heavy or light depending on their chemical makeup, according to Sheikhi.

However, this approach had not yet been used to isolate and recover dysprosium, a heavy rare-earth element that can be used to keep nuclear control rods thermally stable.

"As technology advances, manufacturers will need more and more dysprosium—some forecasts estimate the demand for this material may surge over 2,500% in the next 25 years," said Sheikhi, founding director of the Bio-Soft Materials Laboratory.

Commercialised approaches to separating rare earth elements primarily use solvents, dissolved liquids or solids that can break apart minerals, and require rooms full of machinery and chemicals to function, according to Sheikhi.

To improve this inefficient, pollutant-generating process, the team turned to cellulose. They adjusted the cellulose's molecular structure to create a very small, crystalline material, only about 100 nanometers long—1,000 times smaller than the width of a human hair. This nanocellulose is covered with tiny, hair-like cellulose chains at both ends—known as anionic hairy cellulose nanocrystals (AHCNC).

The team then added their nanocellulose to a water-based solution of neodymium and dysprosium, observing that the nanocellulose separated the dissolved metals through adsorption, in which a surface collects and holds ions from a liquid or dissolved solid. When exposed to the solution, AHCNC behaved differently from other cellulose-based materials—the chemically-modified chains in its hairs distinctively shrank, indicating a specific sensitivity to dysprosium.

-PHYS.ORG

COURT RELIEF: AAP leader vows to quit politics if BJP wins more than 10 seats; slams 'biggest' political plot

Kejriwal dares Modi to hold fresh Delhi polls

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

Arvind Kejriwal on Friday accused Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah of plotting the "biggest political conspiracy" in independent India's history to finish off the AAP through a "fake" liquor scam case.

He dared the ruling BJP to call fresh elections in Delhi, insisting it would not win more than 10 seats. He vowed to quit politics if proven wrong.

As soon as the court discharged him and 22 others, a teary-eyed Kejriwal told reporters that the verdict had proved that "Kejriwal, Manish Sisodia and AAP are kattar imaandar (brutally honest)."

"The five biggest leaders of AAP were sent to jail to finish off the party. For the first time, a sitting chief minister was dragged out of his home and put in jail," he said, breaking down as he spoke.

As he arrived at his official residence on Feroze Shah Road, Kejriwal was welcomed by his family and party members.

His wife, Sunita Kejriwal, hugged him and later said, "Arvind Kejriwal has lived his entire life with honesty and for the progress of the country. But these people, driven by greed for power, levelled fake charges and jailed his aides."

Later, at a press conference, Kejriwal launched a sharp attack on the ruling BJP, claiming that the saffron party knew it could not defeat AAP in Delhi and that the people of Delhi were happy with his government. "So they hatched a conspiracy," he alleged.

Insisting that he has not earned a single illegal penny, the AAP leader said, "The heaviest cost of PM Modi and Amit Shah's pursuit of power has been borne by the three crore people of Delhi. Today, I challenge Modi-ji: if he has the courage, let him call fresh elections in Delhi. If his party wins even more than 10 seats, I will quit politics."

He said the BJP targeted his and AAP's honesty because the public knows that Kejriwal and AAP are honest.

"They conspired to finish the AAP, repeatedly saying, 'Kejriwal is dishonest'. They accused me of a liquor scam, of taking money, of siphoning off Rs 100 crore. I have earned nothing in my life except honesty and respect," he said.

Asked about the Congress' reaction, he said he wanted to know whether Robert Vadra, the son-in-law of Sonia Gandhi, or Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi would ever go to jail. "AAP leader Sanjay Singh went to jail. What is Congress saying? Does it have no shame?" he asked.

CBI moves HC against clean chit

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Facing a setback in the liquor scam case, the CBI on Friday filed an appeal in the Delhi High Court against a special court order that cleared former Delhi chief minister Arvind Kejriwal, ex-deputy CM Manish Sisodia and others of corruption charges.

CBI officials said the court has either "ignored or not considered" several aspects of the investigation. The appeal has been filed, they said, without providing further details.

Kejriwal, Sisodia and 21 others — including former BRS leader K Kavitha — were discharged in the liquor policy case after the court refused to take cognisance of the CBI chargesheet against them.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh also rebuked the CBI for lapses in its investigation, saying that there was no cogent evidence against Kejriwal and no prima facie case against Sisodia or the other accused.

AAP national convener Arvind Kejriwal during a roadshow after he and party leader Manish Sisodia were discharged by a Delhi court in a liquor policy case in New Delhi on Friday. PTI

Court raps CBI over 'South Group' label

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The CBI's "repeated and deliberate" use of the term South Group to describe accused from south India in the Delhi liquor scam case came under criticism from the Delhi court, which said that adopting a geographically defined label was "plainly arbitrary and unwarranted".

The court observed that it is "equally significant" that no comparable regional descriptor has been used for the other accused, noting that the prosecution narrative makes no mention of any North Group or similar categorisation.

Placing its concern over the use of 'South Group' ostensibly on the basis of their regional origin or place of residence, it said such a nomenclature finds no foundation in law, does not correspond to any legally cognisable classification, and is alien to the statutory framework governing criminal liability.

"The concern is not confined to semantics. Region-based labelling carries an avoidable undertone and is capable of creating a prejudicial impression. It detracts from the settled requirement that criminal proceedings must remain dispassionate, evidence-centric, and insulated from extraneous considerations," it said.

Cautioning the CBI to exercise "greater care, circumspection and restraint" in the choice of language while drafting chargesheets and investigative narratives, the court said descriptions of accused persons must remain "strictly neutral, evidence-based and free from expressions that carry a stigmatic, divisive, or pejorative overtone".

The court made it clear that the continued use of such terminology bears directly upon the fairness of the criminal process.

Key observations

Prosecution case does not disclose even the threshold of prima facie suspicion, far less the "grave suspicion" mandated by settled principles of criminal jurisprudence.

The CBI case was unable to survive judicial scrutiny and stands discredited in its entirety.

Due to the absence of any admissible evidence, the prosecution case is rendered legally infirm, unsustainable, and unfit to proceed any further in law.

The evidence establishes that the policy was the outcome of a consultative and deliberative exercise, undertaken after engagement with relevant stakeholders and in adherence to the procedure prescribed under law.

In the absence of a tainted policy or demonstrably unlawful implementation, the prosecution theory is reduced to conjecture.

Prosecution case, as presented in the chargesheet, rests largely on surmises, conjectures, and inferential leaps unsupported by cogent material.

CBI officer faces departmental inquiry

NEW DELHI, PTI: A Delhi court on Friday recommended a departmental inquiry against an investigating officer of the CBI for arraying a public servant as an accused, while discharging former chief minister Arvind Kejriwal and 22 others in the excise policy case.

Special Judge Jitendra Singh flagged the lapses in the probe and said in his 598-page order, "The duty of the court is not merely to discount the tainted investigative material, but also to recommend initiation of appropriate departmental proceedings against the erring investigating officer for framing accused 1 (Kuldeep Singh)."

Earlier, while orally pronouncing the substantive portions of the verdict, the judge said, "I am recommending a departmental inquiry..." against the IO, after noting that "there was no material at all" against Singh.

Opposition divided on relief to ex-Delhi CM

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The relief for AAP chief Arvind Kejriwal in the liquor scam case exposed fissures within the Opposition, with the Congress dismissing it as a "predictable script" by the BJP to favour "convenient allies" ahead of the Gujarat and Punjab elections.

However, I.N.D.I.A bloc partners Samajwadi Party, DMK, Trinamool Congress and RJD called the court order "nothing short of a moral death sentence" and warned the government against mortgaging the integrity of investigating agencies for short-term political gains. "Elections are coming. So the script is predictable. Cases against Congress leaders will suddenly accelerate — P Chidambaram has already been dragged back into the spotlight because Tamil Nadu is going for polls. Proceedings against their convenient 'allies' in the AAP and others will quietly vanish in light of the Gujarat and Punjab elections," he said.

However, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister MK Stalin, Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav, PDP chief Mehbooba Mufti, RJD's Manoj K Jha and Trinamool Congress' Mahua Moitra and Saket Gokhale supported Kejriwal.

The Congress and the AAP are at loggerheads, with the latter having exited the I.N.D.I.A bloc ahead of the Delhi elections last year.

Stalin said the BJP-led union government "must not mortgage" the integrity of investigating agencies for short-term politics. Yadav said the news is "nothing short of a moral death sentence" for the BJP.

Mehboba said the court order exposes the "high-handedness" of investigative agencies. "When agencies are wielded like political swords, justice becomes the first casualty and truth surfaces only after years of pain and tears," she said.

"All your (BJP) dirty tricks — your ED, your CBI — all these puppets will collapse in the face of truth," Trinamool leader Mahua Moitra said.

Whatever I had said about Arvind Kejriwal regarding his involvement in the case was before any decision had come from the judiciary. Now the judiciary has given its verdict. We have to accept the verdict.
-Anna Hazare,
Social activist

You cheated the people of Delhi on dozens of things. Didn't you cheat the people of Delhi through Sheesh Mahal? You left nothing unscathed. Now, you talk about honesty you still don't have.
-Rekha Gupta,
Delhi Chief Minister

We ran the Delhi government with absolute integrity, and today that has been proven. PM Modi fabricated false cases. He misused the ED and the CBI. All this has been proven today.
-Manish Sisodia,
AAP leader

With clean chit, Kejriwal ready to reset

ANALYSIS

SHEMIN JOY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

With a Delhi court clearing him of corruption charges, AAP supremo Arvind Kejriwal is poised to reclaim the moral ground on which he built his party and political career.

The two-year ordeal has ended at an opportune moment as it will re-energise the AAP's demoralised Delhi cadre and act as a booster for its Punjab unit ahead of the 2027 elections. The party's national ambitions, an exercise that will also enthuse the BJP for its anti-Congress thrust, stand to gain fresh momentum.

The court order is also expected to elevate Kejriwal's standing among Opposition leaders, while dealing a setback to the Congress, which had campaigned against the AAP in the Delhi polls. Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had led the attack, branding the AAP chief corrupt.

Built on the image of 'imaandar rajneeti' (honest politics), the AAP saw its popularity nosedive after Kejriwal's arrest in March 2024, just ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, and the BJP capitalising on the 'Sheesh Mahal' controversy — over the renovation of the chief minister's official residence — before the Delhi elections.

The 'aam aadmi', swayed by a high-decibel campaign mounted by the BJP and aided by the Congress, showed the AAP the door in the Delhi Assembly elections after a decade of investing faith in Kejriwal's brand of confrontationist politics.

With the court discharging him and close aides, including former deputy CM Manish Sisodia, in the liquor scam case, Kejriwal now has the chance to reset. The verdict is expected to quell dissent within the party, which surfaced immediately after the Delhi polls, with some Punjab leaders voicing discontent.

It is not difficult to predict that the AAP and Kejriwal will go all out to brandish their "honest politics" and highlight how the BJP "hounded" them, jailing the party's top five leaders, all of whom now stand discharged. BJP leaders will be on the defensive, forced to explain the graft charges that have collapsed in court.

The immediate impact of the order could see Kejriwal spending more time in Delhi while keeping his focus on Punjab, where the AAP will seek another term in the upcoming elections. After the Delhi debacle, he was rarely seen in the capital, devoting most of his energy to Punjab.

The AAP's campaign in Punjab is set to gain more rigour — music to the ears of the BJP, which wants the Congress out of the power equation. With the BJP not in a position to assume power itself, the AAP remains its best bet to keep the Congress away from office.

Kavitha slams 'political vendetta'

S N V SUDHIR
HYDERABAD, DHNS

Telangana Jagruthi president and former MLC K Kavitha reiterated on Friday that the Delhi excise policy case was politically motivated, a vendetta against Opposition parties. In her first reaction after a Delhi court discharged all the accused, she insisted she had no involvement, and accused investigators of targeting BRS chief K Chandrashekar Rao through character assassination.

"From the start, I said it would come out as a washed pearl, and today's verdict proves it. The court clarified that the arguments were entirely false, and we welcome the clean chit for all involved," she told reporters.

Arrested in the Delhi liquor scam, Kavitha spent over five months in jail before securing bail. "For five-and-a-half months, I was separated from my children and family, facing immense pain, humiliation, and character assassination," she said, adding that she will soon launch her own party.

K Kavitha celebrates the court order in Hyderabad. PTI

BRS leader KT Rama Rao said the AAP government was brought down in the name of the so-called liquor scam, and the political casualty of that narrative was the BRS in both Assembly and Parliament elections.

Allegations cannot substitute evidence: Singhvi

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Amid the Congress viewing relief for Arvind Kejriwal in the liquor scam case as part of a BJP ploy, two of its senior leaders — Abhishek Singhvi and Margaret Alva — broke ranks by congratulating the AAP chief.

Singhvi, chairman of the Congress' Law, Human Rights and RTI Department, who argued on behalf of Kejriwal, posted on X, "The discharge of Arvind Kejriwal and Manish Sisodia by the court is a telling reminder that in a democracy, allegations cannot substitute evidence. Institutions must act with fairness, not fervour. Rule of law must prevail over rule by insinuation."

Alva posted, "The false cases hoisted on Opposition leaders by investigative agencies serving as the BJP's in-house musclemen will all be thrown out by the courts as this one has."

SC slams daily objections to EC training officers for Bengal SIR

ASHISH TRIPATHI
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Supreme Court on Friday expressed displeasure over objections raised by West Bengal's ruling Trinamool Congress (TMC) to the Election Commission (EC) training judicial officers deployed for claims verification in the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls.

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said it could not entertain everyday objections to the ongoing process in West Bengal, that the petitioners must refrain from making excuses to stall the exercise, and that "there has to be an end to it".

The court said that the poll panel's training module could not override its orders, and that judicial officers must be trusted.

Senior advocate Kapil Sibal, on behalf of the petitioner, said they issued directions to judicial officers and issued a training module stating what they should accept and what not.

On this, the bench asked, "How does it matter? Judicial officers will take a call."

Sibal said that the EC gave them directions about what certificate to accept and what not to accept without referring to the CJI.

"Do not doubt the judicial officers," the bench told him.

Sibal said it was a training module for judicial officers issued by the EC, but the February 20 order said the Chief Justice will decide.

The bench said the judicial officer would decide. It said the CJI would decide the modalities — the arrangements for this entire process that has to be undertaken.

The court also emphasised that judicial officers are not to be influenced by anything.

OPS, Jaya's chosen man, joins arch-rival DMK

E T B SIVAPRIYAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Three-time AIADMK chief minister O Panneerselvam, who was chosen by the late J Jayalalithaa twice to act as a stand-in for her when she had to quit due to corruption cases, joined the ruling DMK on Friday—a boost to Chief Minister M K Stalin's image ahead of the April-May Assembly elections.

The decision by Panneerselvam (75), who was widely regarded as the BJP's man in the AIADMK after Jayalalithaa's death in 2016, to join the DMK stunned many, though it was not completely unexpected, as it became increasingly clear that Edappadi K Palaniswami was not willing to re-induct him into the party.

Though the DMK gains in terms of optics by inducting OPS—a true-blue AIADMK man—into the party, the Dravidian major also comes under severe criticism for rolling out the red carpet to those coming from other parties.

CM M K Stalin welcomes O Panneerselvam into the DMK on Friday. PTI

The development comes a week after the DMK welcomed late actor Vijayakanth's DMDK into the alliance to further strengthen the combine for the elections, which are likely to be a four-cornered contest.

Minimal impact

The political impact of OPS's arrival for the DMK will be minimal, as the former chief minister does not have a base beyond his home district of Theni, though a section of the dominant Mukulathors—the community to which V K Sasikala and T T V Dhinakaran also belong—might support him.

If Sasikala also fields candidates in southern Tamil Nadu and if DMK uses OPS as an asset to woo the Mukulathors, the AIADMK might suffer a setback due to the split in community votes.

The Mukulathors, who have long supported the AIADMK, began distancing from the party in 2021, with OPS and TTV Dhinakaran pushing the AIADMK candidates to the third slot in the 2024 Lok Sabha polls.

Parl not bound by Centre's undertaking before court: SC

NEW DELHI, DHNS: The Supreme Court on Friday said Parliament has the absolute prerogative to make a law, and during the judicial review, if it is found that the law is against the Constitution, it can be struck down.

The court also clarified that the Union government is not bound by its undertaking given to this court, as it was hearing a plea related to the validity of the sedition law provision reintroduced in the Bhartiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

A bench of Chief Justice of India Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi said that an undertaking given by the Centre to reconsider the sedition law will not prevent Parliament from enacting a similar provision.

"The Legislature cannot give an undertaking. The Union of India may have given one. Parliament is not bound by their undertaking," the bench said.

The plea challenged the provisions of the BNS, 2023, particularly Section 152 (acts endangering sovereignty, unity and integrity of India), calling it a restoration of Section 124A (sedition) of the IPC.

The bench said that the court should allow a new law to operate for a few years and examine its operation before interfering.

Senior advocate Menaka Guruswamy, appearing for petitioner Azad Singh Kataria, submitted, "This court has passed a judgment on sedition, and the Union government gave an undertaking, saying that we will withdraw this provision. But it (sedition) has been reintroduced. So, it cannot give the SC an undertaking and reintroduce it".

"The Legislature cannot give an undertaking. Parliament may still think that we may require a law on it. This argument does not impress at all," the bench said.

Kerala polls: CM to lead LDF

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan will continue to head the Left Democratic Front (LDF) in the Assembly election, as the CPM politburo on Friday granted him exemptions from its general norms that limit leaders to two consecutive terms as MLA and impose an upper age cap of 75 for holding positions.

Vijay's wife files for divorce

CHENNAI, DHNS: Actor-politician Vijay's wife, Sankgeetha Vijay, has filed a petition seeking to end their 28-year-old marriage. The petition by Sankgeetha has been filed before the District Court, Chengalpattu.

The case has now been listed for April 20. She has also sought in-camera proceedings in the case.

Govt. of Karnataka

Karnataka Residential Educational Institutions Society, Bengaluru

(An Organisation of Government of Karnataka)

No.8, MSB-1, 6th & 7th Floor, Karnataka Marketing Federation Building, Cunningham Road, Bengaluru-560052.

No.: KREIS/EE-3/Tender-26/2025-26 Date: **27.02.2026**

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through e-Procurement Only)

The tenders have been invited for **Construction of Flag Post in Belgaum Revenue Division, Replacement of Solar Batteries, Providing Borewell and Civil Repair works in the jurisdiction of KREIS (Tender Indent No. 795/call-3, 545/call-3, 727/call-3, 596/call-3, 794, 806, 811 and 812) through e-Portal vide website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on 27.02.2026.** The last date for receipt of tender is **16.03.2026** respectively. The details may be viewed at above website.

Note: Any changes in term tender notification will not be published in dailies. It will be published in e-procurement portal only.

Sd/-Executive Engineer-3
KREIS, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/YC/5908/2025-26

SRI JAYADEVA INSTITUTE OF CARDIOVASCULAR SCIENCES & RESEARCH

(Govt. of Karnataka - Reg. Autonomous Institute)
Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru-560 069.
Ph.: +91-80-22977666/276/433/216/217
Tele Fax:080-26534625/477 | e-mail: director.sjicr@gmail.com

Ref:SJICR/2025-26/SE0026 Date: 27.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences & Research, Bannerghatta Road, Bengaluru invites tender for providing canteen & dietary services at SJICR, KRS road, Mysuru in two bid systems from eligible tenderers through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka.

1. The tenderers can download the documents from **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from **02.03.2026** and the last date for submission of completed tenders through e-portal is **30.03.2026 up to 4:00 PM.**
2. Date of Pre-bid meeting**: 09.03.2026 at 11:30 AM.**
3. Date of Technical Bid opening**: 01.04.2026 at 4:00 PM.**
4. **EMD: Rs.5,00,000/-**
5. For further details for, please visit our website: **www.jayadevacardiology.com**
6. The Tender Accepting Authority reserves the right to accept/reject/cancel the tender partially or fully without assigning any reason at any stage of processing.

Sd/-
CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER &
DIPR/CP/JA/5912/2025-26 **CHAIRMAN, TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY**

Government of Karnataka

Office of The Chief Medical Officer, Bhadravathi

No.: GHB/OS/1250/2025-26 Date: 27.02.2026

Tender Notice

Sub.: e-Tender invitation for availing services of Group-D and Non Clinical Services on outsource basis for the year 2026-27.

Tender applications are invited in two cover system as per Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act 1999 and Rules 2000 from eligible Contractors regarding availing services of Group-D and Non Clinical Services on outsource basis to Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi for the year 2026-27. For Tender Forms, E.M.D., regarding Tender Terms and Conditions and further information can be viewed in website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Approx. amount of Tender: Rs. 81.00 lakhs (Rupees eighty one lakhs only).

Sd/-Chief Medical Officer, Taluk General Hospital, Bhadravathi.

DIPR/smg/No.149/02/ksmca/25-26/1919

UNIVERSITY OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES, DHARWAD

Office of the Estate Officer, Krishi Nagar, Dharwad-580 005

No.EO/UASD/ 2025-26 Date : 23.02.2026

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

Expression of Interest is invited through e-Procurement portal from the Public Sector Banks, RRBs & Scheduled Banks those having branches in Vijayapur City Limit for providing the competitive rate of interest on Short Term Deposits. Approximately an amount of Rs.**1.5** crore of the Revolving Fund of FMTC, Vijayapur is to be parked in the form of short term fixed deposits in the banks. The details of the notification and conditions etc., can be had with bid document by visiting the website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS : (1) Last Date & Time for Receipt of bids : **07.03.2026** To 17.00 Hrs (2) Date & Time for Opening of bid : **09.03.2026** At 11.00 Hrs

The interested Banks need to register with the e-Procurement portal for participating in the tender. For more details, please contact ph. No: **080-23010900**, The Banks are requested to get updated with corrigendum/addendum (if any) issued online at the following e-Procurement website in the entire tender process. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.

The University reserves the right at its absolute discretion to proceed or cancel with the tender at any stage before awarding the work.

DIPR/Dharwad/KSMCA/1288/2025-26 **Sd/- Estate Officer**

CHIKKABALLAPURA DISTRICT CO-OPERATIVE MILK PRODUCER'S SOCIETIES UNION LIMITED., CHIKKABALLAPURA

Admns off: Yaluvahalli, Nandi Cross, Doddamarali Post, NH-07, Chikkaballapura – 562 103.

GST:: 29AAFAC7468L2Z1 Email ID:chimulpurchase@gmail.com

IFT No. CHIMUL/PUR/E-PROCUREMENT/4217/2025-26 Date: 26.02.2026

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chikkaballapura Milk Union Limited, Chikkaballapura invites tenders from eligible Tenderers for the supply of the following materials.

Sl. No	Description of Material	Qty
01	Supply of Liquid Caustic Soda Lye through carboys for the period of one Year to Mega Dairy, CHIMUL, Chikkaballapura	90,000 Kg's
02	Supply of Jumbo Bopp Tape (Nandini & Coffee Day) for the period of one year to Mega Dairy, CHIMUL, Chikkaballapura	5,000 Rolls
03	Design Supply, Installation & Commissioning of on-grid 10 kw & 12 kw capacity solar PV systems at Chikkaballapura Taluk DCS of CHIMUL	02No's

Access to E-tender Documents : 27.02.2026 to 16.03.2026 5.30 PM

Last date for submission : on or before 16.03.2026 5.30 PM

Date of opening of Tech. Tender : 18.03.2026, 11.00 AM onwards

Tender documents may be downloaded from e-procurement website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/.

Sd/- **Managing Director**
Chikkaballapura Milk Union Ltd., Chikkaballapura

Government of Karnataka Zilla Panchayath, Chitradurga

Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Chitradurga-577501

Email : zped.cta@gmail.com Office phone no: 08194-222372

No:EE/PRED/CTA/TEND/TECH/2025-26/3402/ Date: 25.02.2026

TENDER NOTIFICATION

Executive Engineer, Pachayath Raj Engineering Division, chitradurga has invites works tender under Standard tender document under Verious head of account grant for 6 works (Indent No: 25065, 25099, 25080,25081,23599/Call-2, 13650) for the Estimated Cost Minimum Rs.6.40 lakhs Maximum 100.00 lakhs Total Rs:346.40 Lakhs. Further information obtained from the office during the office hours or any quarries contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 this office Telephone no. 08194-222372 at office of the Executive Engineer, P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga as dates below:-

(1) Last Date for information any quarries Date: 11.03.2026: Time: 11.00 **(2)** Last Date for Submitting the tender Date: 12.03.2026: Time: 16.00 **(3)** Last Date of Opening the Technical Bid Date: 13.03.2026: Time: 16.01 **(4)** Last Date of Opening the Financial Bid Date: 16.03.2026: Time: 16.02

Further any quarries for tender contact (support@eprochelpdesk.com) or KPPP Helpdesk Phone No: tel: 09240214000, or 09240214000 or this Phone no.08194-222372 or Executive Engineer, P.R.E.Division, Chitradurga in office hours.

RO.No.701:DIPR/CTA/KSMCA/2025-26 **Sd/- Executive Engineer P.R.E. Division, Chitradurga**

KARNATAKA SLUM DEVELOPMENT BOARD

Office of the Executive Engineer, KSDB, Division, Belagavi.
Plot No. C-1, Housing Board Colony, Techers Colony, Hindalga, Belagavi.
Ph & Fax No : (0831) 2442294 E-mail: ksdb.bgmdiv@gmail.com

No.KSDB/EE/BGM/DVN/TN/2025-26/975 Date: 25-02-2026

"SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION " - KW-2 & KW-4 Single Cover & Two Cover System - (KPP Portal Only)

On behalf of the Commissioner, Karnataka Slum Development Board, Bengaluru The Executive Engineer, Karnataka Slum Development Board, Division Belagavi invites Item rate tenders from eligible bidders for Providing C.C. Road at Chikkodi Town (Head of Account: Cess Action Plan) - (Single Cover) & Providing C.C Road & Sump Tank to 565 (384 G+1) Houses Rabkavi-Banhatti Town **(Head of Account: 5475-00-115-0-06) -(Two Cover)**

The Maximum approximate value of work is **Rs. 142.87 Lakhs** and Minimum approximate value of work is **Rs. 41.31 Lakhs** and other details available in the website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Calendar of Events :

1	Date & Time for Pre bid meeting (for Rabkavi-Banhatti work)	**07-03-2026 at 11.00 am**
2	Last Date & Time for Tender Queries/Clarifications	**12-03-2026 upto 5.30 pm**
3	Last Date & time for tender Submission	**13-03-2026 upto 4.30 pm**
4	Date & time for opening of Technical Bid	**16-03-2026 at 11.00 am**
5	Date & time for opening of Financial Bid (for Rabkavi-Banhatti work)	Will be intimated to qualified bidders

Sd/-
Executive Engineer (I/C)
K.S.D.B. Division, Belagavi.

DIPR/BGM/1966/DeshpandePublicity/2025-26

BANGALORE WEST CITY CORPORATION

Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-2, Malleshwaram, No-98, 8th Cross, Malleshwaram, Bangalore-560003

No: SADH(W)TENDER/07/2025-26 Dated: 26.02.2026

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER (IFT)

(SINGLE & TWO COVER SYSTEM)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture (West-2), (Referred to as Employer in these documents) invites tenders to Implement in accordance with KTPP rules 2000, from eligible and experienced Person/Agencies / Firms (Referred to as Tenderers in these documents) registered in Labour department for Beautification, Maintenance Development of works detailed in the table below.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Beautification Maintenance Horticulture Works and Other Emergency Works. **Estimate cost :** Rs. 25.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs.50000/-.
2	Maintenance and Development of Medains, Circles, Islands. **Estimate cost :** Rs. 69.75 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs.139500/-.

Calendar of events: 1) Date of Notification : 26.02.2026. 2) Tender can be downloaded from : 02.03.2026. 3) Pre bid meeting date : 05.03.2026 at 11.00 AM. 4) Tender Closing Date : 09.03.2026 at 4.30 PM. 5) Technical bid opening date : 10.03.2026 at 4.30 PM. 6) Financially bid opening date : Alter Approval of Technical bid.

Sd/- Senior Assistant Director of Horticulture, Zone-2, Malleshwaram,

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BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION

Office of the Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Divison
Zone-1, Bengaluru - 560 092.

No:EE/BTP/PR/57/2025-26 Date: 26-02-2026

NOTIFICATION

FORM-1 (See sub-rule(1) of rule 3)

In exercise of powers conferred under section 14-B of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning Act. 1961 and rule 3 of the Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Benefit of Development Rights) Rules. 2016 the following Area mentioned in the schedule below is required by **The Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation, Byatarayanapura Divison, Zone-1 (Public Authority) for development and "Improvement roads and drains from Jakkuru ROB to GKVK Layout Connecting railway parallel road in Jakkuru in ward No-06 Byatarayanapura Sub division"** width 12.00 meters (Road, Parks or any public purpose defined in the Act) for implementing the proposals of the Approved Master Plan or proposals of the Local Authority. It is hereby informed to the land owners and interested persons whose lands are required for the public purpose to appear and submit their claims along with the copies of the relevant documents viz. (i) Sale/partition/other deeds of title, (ii) Up-to-date RTC's (iii) Mutation Copy (iv) Tax paid receipts (v) conversion order of Non agriculture purpose (vi) Revenue sketch (vii) Akar Bhand etc., in person in the place and dates as indicated in the address below and state their respective interest in such land.

The place where land owners / interested persons have to appear and submit their claims	Name and address of the divisional / Sub divisional / branch offices	Date and time
Executive Engineer, Byatarayanapura Divison, 2nd floor, Divison Office, 14th Cross Road 'D' Block Sahakara Nagara Phone : 9844508268	**Executive Engineer,** Byatarayanapura Divison,2nd floor, Divison Office, 14th Cross Road. 'D' Block Sahakara Nagara Phone : 9844508268	10 days from the date of Notification Time: 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

The land owners / interested parties of the scheduled properties whose lands are to be acquired shall give an option for Grant of Development Rights to the Commissioner, Bengaluru North City Corporation, Byatarayanapura Divison, Zone-1 (Public Authority) as per The Karnataka Town and Country Planning (Benefit of Development Rights) Rules, 2016.

The land owners shall receive twice the area of land surrendered in lieu of monetary compensation as Development Rights (Notional land) and one time the building area surrendered as estimated by the value of the building area surrendered divided by the market value of the land on which the building is constructed. The Notional land can be utilized by factorizing with the market value at the originating plot and receiving plot. The Notional land is eligible for FAR and used as additional built up area at the receiving plot as per the terms and conditions prescribed in the rules.

SCHEDULE

"Acquisition of land required for **"Improvement roads and drains from Jakkuru ROB to GKVK Layout Connecting railway parallel road in Jakkuru in Ward No-06 Byatarayanapura Sub division"**

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru North**
Name of the Village: **Shivanahalli**

Sl. No.	Sy.No/ Khatha No.	Type of Land	Nature of Land	Area (in sqm)	Name and address of the Land owner / interested persons
1.	Sy No.48	Agicultural	Open Space	1839.07	Lake
2.	Sy No.43/2	Agicultural	Open Space	192.56	Akila D/o L.K Raju
3.	Sy No.43/3	Agicultural	Open Space	189.98	Akila D/o L.K Raju
4.	Sy No.43/4	Agicultural	Open Space	846.33	Akila D/o L.K Raju
5.	Sy No.45/2B	Agicultural	Open Space	18.85	M Krishnappa S/o Late Munichenappa Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneya R D
6.	Sy No.44/1	Agicultural	Open Space	1024.07	Jayamma D/o Nanjimarl Akila D/o L.K Raju
7.	Sy No.40, 1,2,3	Agicultural	Open Space	1528.43	Sushilamma Kenchamma Sinappa L K Raju S/o Muniraju B L Naveen L K Raju
8.	Sy No.39/1, 2A,2B,3	Agicultural	Open Space	128.43	Chowdarnma W/o Nagappa, M S Mahadevaiah S/o Shivanna, Sachin Kamt S/o G N Kamath, S Raghunath S/o H Shankar, M S Mahadevaiah S/o Shivanna, A Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneya, Y K Suresh Kumar S/o Krishnappa ,
9.	Sy No.38/1	Agicultural	Open Space	338.01	Y K Suresh Kumar S/o Krishnappa
10.	Sy No.38/4	Agicultural	Open Space	181.37	H Krishnappa Akila D/o L.K Raju
11.	Sy No.38/3	Agicultural	Open Space	563.65	A Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneya char
12.	Sy No.38/4	Agicultural	Open Space	517.52	H Krishnappa Akila D/o L.K Raju
13.	Sy No.38/5	Agicultural	Open Space	410.25	A Ramakrishna S/o Anjaneya char
14.	Sy No.37/3	Agicultural	Open Space	1113.02	S Subbayya S/o Late Subbanna
15.	Sy No.37/2	Agicultural	Open Space	348.90	Puttamma D/o Munishamappa

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru North**
Name of the Village: **Jakkuru**

16.	Sy No.10/1,2, 3,4&5	Agicultural	Open Space	362.04	Rajanna S/o Late Hanumanthappa, Ramanna S/o Late Hanumanthappa ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ನೌಕರರ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ (ನಿ), ಕ್ಲಾಡಿಯಾಸ್ ಡಿ. ಕುಲತುಂಗನ್, Byrappa S/o P Nanjappa Thammayya S/o Munihuchappa SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru North**
Name of the Village: **Jakkuru Plantation**

17.	Sy No.1	Agicultural	Open Space	273.76	Jakkuru Plantation

Name of the District: **Bengaluru Urban** Name of the Taluk: **Bengaluru North**
Name of the Village: **Jakkuru**

18.	Sy No.9/2	Agicultural	Open Space	724.52	UAS Employes HBCS LXD-Bengaluru Subbanna W/o Late Ramakrishnappa Ravikumar S/o Late Ramakrishnappa,Thammayya S/o Late Ramakrishnappa Thammayya S/o Late Ramakrishnappa ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ವಶಕ್ಕೆ ತೆಗೆದುಕೊಂಡಿರುವವರು SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
19.	Sy No.9/4	Agicultural	Open Space	838.28	Subramanya S/o Late Muninanjappa
20.	Sy No.11/4	Agicultural	Open Space	533.09	J M Chandrappa S/o Munishamappa, J Devaraj S/o M Jayaram, Manjula W/o Late Jagadeesh, Sunanda W/o Late Sudhakar, Lakshmamma W/o Late D M Rajanna
21.	Sy No.8/2A2	Agicultural	Open Space	813.97	ಕೃಷಿ ವಿಶ್ವವಿದ್ಯಾನಿಲಯ ನೌಕರರ ಗೃಹ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ ಸಹಕಾರ ಸಂಘ (ನಿ),
22.	Sy No.8/2B	Agicultural	Open Space	258.37	UAS Employes HBCS LXD- Bengaluru
23.	Sy No.8/3	Agicultural	Open Space	350.61	J K Jagadeesha S/o Late J M Krishnappa
24.	-	-	-	114.48	NALA
25.	Sy No.1/1	Agicultural	Open Space	897.97	S Siranna S/o Late H K Subbayya S Dilip S/o Late S Shamanna S Pradeep S/o Late S Shamanna A Shashikumar S/o Late S Appanna A Chethana D/o Late S Appanna Bharathi A D/o Late S Appanna Rajesh A S/o Late S Appanna
26.	Sy No.1/9	Agicultural	Open Space	373.13	Rajamma, Manjula
27.	Sy No.20/2	Agicultural	Open Space	547.04	J K Jagadeesha S/o Late J M Krishnappa
28.	Sy No.20/3	Agicultural	Open Space	806.50	Muninanjappa
29.	-	-	-	97.55	Road
30.	Sy No.19/7	Agicultural	Open Space	437.81	Bachanna S/o Late Marinanjappa
31.	Sy No.21/1,2	Agicultural	Open Space	1461.58	P Ramachandrappa, A Pillappa S/o Anjanappa, Muniyamma W/o Late A Pillappa P Ramachandrappa S/o Late Pillappa
32.	Sy No.22/1	Agicultural		792.54	Shankara Narayana Iyager Vagai
33.	Sy No.22/15	Agicultural	Open Space	465.40	S Siranna S/o Late H K Subbayya S Dilip S/o Late S Shamanna S Pradeep S/o Late S Shamanna A Shashikumar S/o Late S Appanna, A Chethana D/o Late S Appanna, Bharathi A D/o Late S Appanna
34.	Sy No.22/14	Agicultural	Open Space	516.81	N Veeranna S/o Narayanappa
35.	Sy No.22/13	Agicultural	Open Space	60.85	H R Suresh S/o Late H K Ramayya KRIDE BSRP
				19966.74 Sqmt	

Sd/- Commissioner,
Bengaluru North city Corporation

GREATER BENGALURU AUTHORITY

Office of CHO public Health, Annex-2, Ground Floor, N R Sqaure, Bengaluru-560002

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Tender for the supply of Vacutainer and pipette set to Namma clinics of Five City Corporations under GBA.

TENDER SCHEDULE

1.	Tender Reference No. : **GBA/2025-26/IND0005**
2.	Date of Commencement of Download of Tender Document from Karnataka public Procurement portal website **http://Kppp.karnataka.gov.in : on 27/02/2026 onwards**
3.	Date and Time of Pre-bid Meeting : **05.03.2026 at 11:30 AM** at the following venue: Office of CHO PH, Ground Floor, Annexe-3 Building, N R square, Bengaluru-560002. .
4.	Last Date and Time for uploading Online Queries in Karnataka public Procurement portal: **05/03/2026 up to 5:00 pm**
5.	Last Date and Time for uploading of e-Tender in Karnataka public Procurement portal : **13/03/2026 up to 5:00 pm**
6.	Date and Time of Online Opening of Technical Bids in Karnataka public procurement portal : **16/03/2026 11:00 am**
7.	Date and Time of Demonstration of quoted items : **Shall be intimated after technical bid opening**
8.	Address for Communication : Chief Health Officer (Public Health), Office of the CHO PH, Ground Floor, Annexe-2 Building, N R square, Bengaluru-560002. Email:choph515@gmail.com Phone: 9845208571

Only Online Queries through KPP portal will be accepted. Queries sent through letters, emails or any other mode will not be entertained.

Sd/- Chief Health Officer (Public Health), GBA.

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ–562114,
ದೂರವಾಣಿ:–27931221, ಸಹಾಯವಾಣಿ: 27931759
Email:-itstaff_ulb_hosakote@yahoo.com Website: www.hosakotecity.mrc.gov.in

ನಂ.ನಸಹೊ/ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಶಾಖೆ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/ಸಿಆರ್/14/2025–26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026

"ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ" (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಟಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ)

ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು ನಗರಸಭೆ ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಇವರಿಂದ 2025–26ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ಸನ್ಮಾನ್ಯ ಮುಖ್ಯ ಮಂತ್ರಿಯವರ ಮೂಲ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಯೋಜನೆಯಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ (CMIDP) ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ 01.02.03 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಏಕ/ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಡಿ ಅರ್ಹ ದರ್ಜೆಯ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮರುಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ	ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ.ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)	ಮೀಸಲಿರಿಸುವ ವರ್ಗ
1	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53589/CALL-2	42.00	SC
2	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53598/CALL-2	20.00	SC
3	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53587/CALL-2	85.00	SC
4	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53601/CALL-2	32.00	ST
5	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53612/CALL-2	40.00	CAT-II(A)
6	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53605/CALL-2	20.00	CAT-II(A)
7	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53591/CALL-3	65.00	GENERAL
8	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53573/CALL-3	50.00	GENERAL
9	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53597/CALL-2	34.00	GENERAL
10	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53602/CALL-2	40.00	GENERAL
11	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53604/CALL-2	42.00	GENERAL
12	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53613/CALL-2	30.00	GENERAL
13	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT53614/CALL-2	20.00	GENERAL
14	DMA/2025-26/OW/WORK_INDENT53615/CALL-2	35.00	GENERAL
15	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55032	40.00	GENERAL
16	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55030	40.00	GENERAL
17	DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT55028	70.00	GENERAL

1) ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **16.03.2026** ರ ಸಂಜೆ **5:30** ಗಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ **18.03.2026** ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **24.03.2026** ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ **11:00** ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ನಿಗಧಿಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

2) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ದಾಖಲೆಗಳನ್ನು ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home** ನಿಂದ ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು
ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಹೊಸಕೋಟೆ.

ವಾಸಾಸಂಇ/ವಾ.ಪ್ರ/ಶಿರಡಿಸಾಯಿ/5915/2025–26

Rape case: Govt moves HC against actor Dileep's acquittal

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: The Kerala government has filed an appeal at the High Court against the acquittal of actor Dileep and three others in the abduction and sexual assault of a popular South Indian actor at Kochi in 2017.

Dileep

In its appeal, the state is also seeking enhancement of the punishment awarded to the six people sentenced to 20 years of rigorous imprisonment in the case for various charges, including gang rape. The appeal is likely to be considered next week.

The trial court in Kochi acquitted Dileep and three others in the case last December, citing insufficient evidence. The survivor had come out against the verdict and expressed a lack of faith in the trial court judge. She said that her request for a fair trial was denied, and even the memory card containing videos of the sexual assault was illegally accessed.

NCERT issues advisory: Return banned textbook, delete online posts

Advisory comes a day after SC banned Class 8 textbook

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

LEGAL TROUBLE

- Advisory asks anyone in possession of book to return it to NCERT headquarters
- Seeks deletion of social media content posted about the textbook
- Ministry of Education had asked MeitY to stop dissemination of book

A day after the Supreme Court imposed a ban on the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) Class 8 book, the syllabus-setting body on Friday issued an advisory asking anyone in possession of the banned textbook to return it to the council headquarters.

In the advisory, the NCERT also called for all social-media posts containing the chapter's content to be deleted.

"Any individual or organisation in possession of the NCERT textbook Exploring Society: India and Beyond, Social Science Grade 8 Part 2, or any material related to it, may return it to the (NCERT headquarters) at the earliest possible," the advisory said.

"...Any content related to the chapter 'Role of judiciary in Our Society', if posted on any social media or digital platform, may be deleted at the earliest possible. Also, whosoever has purchased this textbook from anywhere is requested to return it to the NCERT immediately," the advisory said.

The Union Ministry of Education on Thursday wrote to the Ministries of Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics, asking them to stop the dissemination of the controversial textbook through digital platforms and electronic media.

The directive followed the SC order on Thursday imposing a "complete blanket ban" on any further publication, reprinting, or digital dissemination of the Class 8 book. The textbook stated that corruption, a massive backlog of cases, and the lack of an adequate number of judges were among the challenges faced by the judicial system.

The NCERT has apologised for the "inappropriate content" after facing the SC's ire over the chapter, and said the book would be rewritten in consultation with appropriate authorities.

Sources in the Ministry of Education said that the book was prepared by a panel of subject-matter experts that included a lawyer. However, the officials also clarified that there was no mandatory rule that required such chapters to be independently vetted by members of the legal fraternity.

Canadian PM Mark Carney arrives in India on four-day visit

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney arrived in Mumbai on Friday on a four-day official visit to India for delegation-level talks coinciding with the Holi festivities, during which the two countries will engage in building new partnerships in clean energy, artificial intelligence, defence, and technology.

Carney landed in Mumbai on Friday evening and will meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi over Sunday and Monday for delegation-level talks.

In Mumbai for two days, he will participate in separate business engagements, interact with Indian and Canadian CEOs, industry and financial experts, innovators, educators, as well as Canadian Pension Funds based in India.

Carney will leave for New Delhi on March 1, where he will meet Modi.

Prime Minister Mark Carney and Diana Fox Carney arrive in Mumbai on Friday. AP/PTI

CEPA can boost India-Canada trade to $50 billion by 2030

As Canadian PM Mark Carney embarks on an India tour to revive negotiations on the long-pending Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), new analysis by Rubix Data Sciences points out that the current bilateral trade of $8.7 billion could zoom to newer heights, touching $50 billion by 2030, reports DHNS.

India-Canada goods trade grew from $6.9 billion in FY2022 to $8.7 billion in FY2025, registering an annual growth rate of about 8%. However, the analysis noted that this expansion was accompanied by significant volatility.

In the first nine months of FY2026 (April–December 2025), total goods trade declined by 13% year-on-year, primarily due to a sharp 31% fall in India's imports from Canada.

HC allows release of 'The Kerala Story 2'

THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, DHNS: A division bench of the Kerala High Court on Friday allowed the release of the controversial film 'The Kerala Story 2', directed by Kamakhya Narayan Singh.

The division bench stayed an interim stay issued by a single-judge bench on Thursday on the film that was scheduled for release on Friday.

The film's producers were learnt to be expediting its release as ticket-booking was already underway.

A single-judge bench maintained on Friday that, prima facie, the teaser itself had the potential to distort public perception and disturb communal harmony.

The division bench of Justice Sushrut Arvind Dharmadhikari and Justice P V Balakrishnan, which had an urgent hearing on an appeal by late on Friday evening, cited that the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) had already certified the film.

It also maintained that it could not be concluded based on a few scenes shown in the trailer that the film violated the certification norms.

PM to launch HPV vaccination campaign today

NEW DELHI, DHNS: Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Saturday roll out the nationwide human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination campaign at Ajmer, aiming to administer the shot to more than 1 crore 14-year-old girls each year.

MISCELLANY

◆COMICS◆

Blondie

BUMSTEAD! WHAT'S ALL THIS NONSENSE?
CHOCOLATE-COVERED DRUMSTICKS, BOSS!
YUM! THANKS, DAG!
YOU'RE DIPPING TURKEY LEGS IN CHOCOLATE?
YEP! THEY'RE A HUGE HIT!
YUM!
MAYBE I'VE BEEN PUSHING BUMSTEAD TOO HARD!
MMM... YUMMY!

Hagar The Horrible

Beetle Bailey

I WANT TO APOLOGIZE IN ADVANCE IF WE LET ANY CURSE WORDS SLIP OUT, CHAPLAIN
OH, I'VE HEARD IT ALL BEFORE
PRO SHOP
DON'T BE SO SURE

Peanuts

MY NAME IS EUDORA, AND I'M NEW IN THIS CLASS
OUR FAMILY JUST MOVED HERE FROM OUT OF STATE
NO, MA'AM... I DON'T KNOW WHICH STATE
I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHERE I AM NOW!

Marvin

JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NFSIF

AGBNE

ANPOCY

NSFIHI

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek
Sweet Dreams
Wow! I love the update!
Everyone will stay here when it goes viral.
Welcome
8/20
THE QUAINT LODGING ESTABLISHMENT'S NEW DECOR WAS STYLISH AND ---

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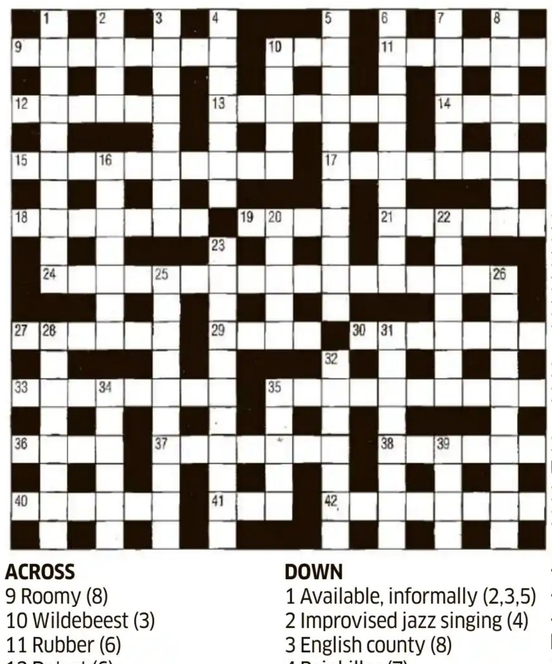
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Ans. here: " " (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FUSSY JETTY GOALIE TUXEDO
Answer: The food critic kept his reviews short so that they were — EASY TO DIGEST

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 4029



CRYPTIC

ACROSS
9 Are within call when there's an allocation (5-3)
10 Announced, in addition, the figure (3)
11 Use, to get me back, a gambit (6)
12 Setbacks during the spells of batting? (6)
13 Run down deliberately (7)
14 Shoot across to get the tool (4)
15 Did it and was removed forcibly (7,3)
17 From time to time, working or not (2,3,3)
18 Pour a snort to give to the business partner (7)
19 Depict as an attraction (4)
21 A number are surrounded by darting horse flies (6)
24 Insisting that you tell all again (9,1,7)
27 The girl with whom I am going back home (6)
29 Make you long to go topless (4)
30 The manner of the fellow has changed when I take over (7)
33 Cheer up when you mention the seaside (8)
35 Does the unauthorised use of material mean there's a plot? (10)
36 Putting a number in an envelope saying "Authorship Unknown" (4)
37 It's always held back when jumpy (7)
38 The combination could be, all round, very, very dangerous (6)
40 It's hard to understand a clergyman's retiring in it (6)
41 See as self-assertion (3)
42 Guide to how old one is, cheapness of passage is (8)

DOWN
1 Just say what you have in mind (5,5)
2 He's responsible for her losing her head, I figure (4)
3 Because you promise to give up (8)
4 A post at headquarters (7)
5 Anticipate, as you try to find where the patient is (4,7)
6 Appropriating your ideas, as you thought (10)
7 Giving water and shade to, was merciful with (6)
8 Expects, when one goes in search of (5,3)
10 Do, when there's a surprise development (5)
16 Continued with "The amount that wild deer consume" (7)
20 He's in telecommunications, all right (5)
22 He's promised you a ticket (7)
23 Game in which a good-looker has the advantage (4-3-4)
25 Is he not the first to have scratched? (3-7)
26 Accepted the burden and became boss (4,6)
28 Called in, dear, to straighten out and it's fixed (8)
31 Shocked by a muffled "It became boring" (8)
32 In the teens, being on the move is great (7)
34 Look flushed and keep badgering on return (6)
35 Can drop the mechanic off and ring (5)
39 Go and spoil (4)

ACROSS
9 Roomy (8)
10 Wildebeest (3)
11 Rubber (6)
12 Detest (6)
13 Conflagration (7)
14 Compass point (4)
15 Pushy (10)
17 Pleasant (8)
18 Crisp fabric (7)
19 Cupid (4)
21 Serviette (6)
24 Obscure (8,2,7)
27 Period before Christmas (6)
29 Weak (4)
30 Large ape (7)
33 Inappropriate name (8)
35 Maternity (10)
36 Musical work (4)
37 Petty (7)
38 Legally responsible (6)
40 Yearly (6)
41 Consume (3)
42 Scandalous (8)

DOWN
1 Available, informally (2,3,5)
2 Improvised jazz singing (4)
3 English county (8)
4 Painkiller (7)
5 Argumentative (11)
6 Possessions (10)
7 Insect (6)
8 Finnish capital (8)
10 Social blunder (5)
16 Football official (7)
20 Rule (5)
22 Petulant (7)
23 Imperilled (11)
25 In the end (10)
26 Road marking (6,4)
28 Fat from meat (8)
31 Disregard (8)
32 Make use of (7)
34 Large meal, informally (4-2)
35 Damp (5)
39 Enquires (4)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD 12363

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Stash 6, C-eded 9, Pottery 10, Groat 11, Oozed 12, SAB-ot 13, Make out 15, Bus 17, Iris 18, B-ehest 19, Fined 20, Haggle 22, Irma 24, 'Tis 25, King-Dom 26, Do-yen 27, M-in-or 28, Board 29, Neither 30, Typed 31, Teddy
DOWN: 2, Tart-ar 3, Spares 4, Ho-t 5, Sto-a-t 6, Crooked 7, Eyot 8, Erebus 12, Susie 13, Might 14, Kings 15, Bear-d 16, Steam 18, Be-gin 19, Floo-re-d 21, Airily 22, Ign-ore 23, Moo-red 25, Keats 26, D-one 28, Bet

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Ascot 6, Emits 9, Red tape 10, Grade 11, Issue 12, Neigh 13, Speared 15, Spy 17, Tell 18, Valise 19, Cream 20, Occurs 22, Veal 24, Pat 25, Repents 26, Spout 27, Creep 28, Adder 29, Allegro 30, State 31, Truth
DOWN: 2, Stripe 3, Ordeal 4, Tee 5, Steed 6, Epigram 7, Mesh 8, Trumps 12, Nears 13, Stoop 14, Elect 15, Siren 16, Yells 18, Valet 19, Cripple 21, Carrot 22, Vendor 23, Attest 25, Runes 26, Seat 28, Art

◆SU-DO-KU-6842◆

	6					4		
				6		7		5
			4	7	5	2		
6				3		9		4
			6		8			
3		4		5				1
		6	9	2	3			
4		2		8				
		9	5				8	

medium

SOLUTION TO 6841

4	1	2	7	5	9	3	6	8
3	6	9	2	4	8	1	5	7
8	7	5	6	3	1	9	4	2
2	8	4	9	6	3	7	1	5
1	9	6	4	7	5	8	2	3
7	5	3	8	1	2	6	9	4
6	2	7	1	8	4	5	3	9
5	4	8	3	9	6	2	7	1
9	3	1	5	2	7	4	8	6

To solve the puzzle: To solve a su-do-ku puzzle, every digit from1 to 9 must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows, and in each of the nine boxes.

SCRABBLE™

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A1	I1	R1	D2	B3	S1	S1	Triple Word Score		RACK 1
E1	R1	G2	P3	A1	E1	E1	Triple Word Score		RACK 2
G2	R1	U1	I1	F4	D2	E1	Triple Word Score		RACK 3
C3	A1	S1	L1	E1	O1	L1	Triple Word Score		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 210-220
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in the Collins English Dictionary. JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION

S1	C3	U1	L1	K5			RACK 1 =	16
E1	N1	T1	I1	T1	Y4		RACK 2 =	9
A1	S1	S1	E1	N1	T1	S1	RACK 3 =	64
C3	O1	N1	V4	E1	N1	E1	RACK 4 =	86
B3	L1	E1	A1	K5	L1	Y4	RACK 5 =	66

PAR SCORE 155-165 JUDD'S TOTAL 241

HITORI-3296

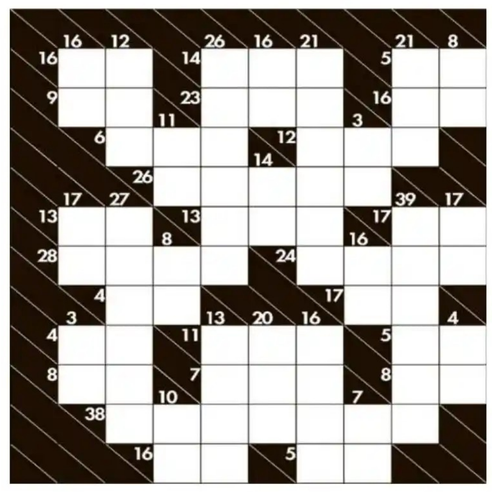
5	5	8	2	8	6	4	5
5	5	6	3	2	8	7	4
8	7	1	8	6	8	3	4
3	8	8	4	1	2	5	6
8	3	7	8	5	4	1	8
7	7	3	1	4	5	2	8
4	2	8	6	3	8	5	7
2	1	4	5	4	3	8	8

SOLUTION TO 3295

2	5	7	■	8	■	1	6
■	7	4	3	5	2	■	1
5	2	■	1	■	7	4	3
1	■	5	4	7	■	3	2
8	4	2	■	6	3	5	■
4	3	6	5	2	1	8	7
■	8	1	2	3	5	7	■
7	1	3	■	4	6	2	5

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

KAKURO- 3296



SOLUTION TO 3295

To solve the puzzle: Put a number from 1 through 9 in a cell. No zeros. A number in a cell separated by diagonal line tells the sum of numbers in consecutive cells at its right or downward. No number may appear more than once in consecutive cells.

SU DO KU X - 3841

9							7	
		6			3		4	2
				2		8		
		5						7
	7					2		
				4				
5			8			1		
						6		
6							9	8

SOLUTION TO 3840

7	4	5	2	1	8	9	3	6
9	3	1	4	6	7	2	5	8
6	8	2	9	3	5	1	7	4
3	1	6	5	9	2	4	8	7
2	5	8	7	4	6	3	9	1
4	7	9	3	8	1	6	2	5
5	6	7	1	2	9	8	4	3
1	9	4	8	5	3	7	6	2
8	2	3	6	7	4	5	1	9

To solve the puzzle: The objective is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column, each 3x3 box and each shaded diagonal line contains the same number only once.

Protesting workers booked for attempt to murder in Gujarat

SATISH JHA
AHMEDABAD, DHNS

The Surat police have charged 40 workers and a mob of thousands with attempted murder, unlawful assembly and other offences following violent protests at the ArcelorMittal Nippon Steel plant in Gujarat's Hazira on Thursday.

According to the FIR, between 4,000 and 5,000 workers were demanding reduced working hours, double overtime, access to drinking water, and clean toilets and bathrooms, among other facilities.

On Thursday morning, workers employed by Larsen & Toubro were protesting when the situation turned violent. Though the FIR does not mention L&T by name, AMNS, in a statement, claimed, "A group of workers deployed by L&T at the AM/NS India plant project site gathered to raise some demands on their employer. L&T management is expeditiously handling the situation in discussion with the workers."

The FIR revealed that police used 36 rounds of teargas shells, 10 rounds of firing in the air, and four riot-control hand grenades to disperse the mob and bring the situation under control. Several policemen sustained injuries, while 40 workers were arrested on the spot.

The FIR alleges that the violence was "pre-determined".

Navy to induct 15 warships this year: Chief of Naval Staff

New anti-submarine warfare vessel INS Anjadip commissioned

KALYAN RAY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Indian Navy is set to induct 15 warships this year, aiming to expand its operational footprint across the Indian Ocean region and beyond, said Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Dinesh Tripathi on Friday while commissioning the new anti-submarine warfare (ASW) vessel INS Anjadip.

The upcoming warships will include four Nilgiri-class guided-missile frigates, more shallow water anti-submarine warfare craft, and a diving support vessel for the west coast, to be named INS Nipun.

"The Navy commissioned 12 warships and one submarine. This momentum continues with plans to induct about 15 more ships in 2026, setting a benchmark and marking the highest rate of induction in our history," said Admiral Tripathi at the commissioning ceremony in Chennai.

"Beyond the numbers, our focus has been on sharpening critical war-fighting capabilities — particularly in anti-submarine and undersea warfare. The platforms inducted over the past year are equipped with highly advanced and sophisticated ASW capabilities."

The Navy chief's comments come ahead of Pakistan inducting the first of its eight Hangor-class diesel-electric submarines built under a China-Pakistan cooperation programme. The first boat is likely to enter service by mid-2026, and all of them are to be commissioned by 2028.

The Indian Navy, on the other hand, is acquiring 16 anti-submarine warfare vessels being built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE) and Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The first three from the GRSE — INS Arnala, Androth, and Anjadip — are in service. INS Mahe — the first one made by CSL — was commissioned in November 2025.

Sources said all 16 ASW vessels would be commissioned between 2026 and 2028. The remaining four Nilgiri-class frigates are also likely to be inducted in 2026, beginning with INS Taragiri, which will be commissioned on March 14 at Visakhapatnam.

Serial offenders may soon lose driving licences, says Gadkari

AJITH ATHRADY
NEW DELHI, DHNS

The Union Road Transport Ministry is working to introduce a graded point system for driving licences to monitor traffic offences, and multiple violations will soon result in the temporary suspension of driving licences for six months.

"For example, if you are caught driving the wrong way, you will be charged a point... once you accumulate 12 points... you won't be allowed to drive for six months," Union Road Transport Minister Nitin Gadkari said here on Friday.

He also said that if a driver is found to be involved in many serious offences, such as drunk driving, then the driver's licence will be permanently cancelled.

Gadkari further said that his ministry has identified 100 top districts with the highest number of road accidents and black spots. The Ministry is working on a targeted approach to reduce accidents and eventually make them zero-fatality districts.

The Ministry is also planning to name and shame the states and districts that continue to witness the highest number of road mishaps and deaths.

Gadkari also said the government is identifying high-risk corridors, junctions, roads, user groups, and time patterns of accidents.

In 2024, 1.77 lakh people died in road accidents across the country, which was a 2.5% increase compared to 2023.

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ
ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಕಾಪಾಅ/ಪಂರಾಇಂ/ವಿಯಾ/ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ/2025-26/2051 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 26.02.2026

ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಟೆಂಡರ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ (ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ) KW 3
(ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) 2ನೇ ಕರೆ

1) ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ.: Pck. No.YDG-YDG-01-2025-26 (4 Worsk) (1)ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಗೌಡಗೇರಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ-01 ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (2) ಗುರುಮಿಠಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಹೊನಗೇರಾ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಅಂಗನಾವಡಿ-03 ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. (3) ಗುರುಮಿಠಕಲ್ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಶಿವಪೂರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ-01 ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ.(4) ಯಾದಗಿರಿ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಕೌಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಅಂಗನವಾಡಿ-03 ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ. RDPR/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT24509/CALL-2 CAT-I Bidders Only 2) ಲೆಕ್ಕ ಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆ :2025-26ನೇ ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ. ಯೋಜನೆ 3) ಟೆಂಡರಿಗಿಟ್ಟ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ: ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮತ್ತು ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ರೂ. 64.00 ಲಕ್ಷ 4) ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರ ದರ್ಜೆ: 3ನೇ ದರ್ಜೆ ಮೇಲ್ಪಟ್ಟು 5) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಪಡೆಯಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27.02.2026 ರಿಂದ 07.03.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 6) ಟೆಂಡರ ಅರ್ಜಿ ಬೆಲೆ ಮತ್ತು ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ. ಮೊತ್ತ: ಇ-ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದಂತೆ (ಅರ್ಜಿ ಶುಲ್ಕು ಹಿಂದಿರುಗಿಸಲಾಗುವುದಿಲ್ಲಾ) 7) ಟೆಂಡರ ಫಾರಂ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಅಂತಿಮ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 07.03.2026 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4:00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ 8) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ- 3): 09.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ 9) ಟೆಂಡರ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ (ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ- 3): 13.03.2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11:00 ನಂತರ 10) ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬೇಕಾದ ವಿಳಾಸ (ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ): ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರವರ ಕಛೇರಿ ಪಂಚಾಯತ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ. 11) ಅಂತರಜಾಲ ತಾಣದ ವಿಳಾಸ:https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

ಸೂಚನೆ :- ಟೆಂಡರರಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂದಿಸಿದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯಿಂದ ಕಛೇರಿ ಅವಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು (ರಜಾದಿನಗಳು ಹೊರತುಪಡಿಸಿ).

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರಿಂಗ್ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಾದಗಿರ.

ವಾ.ಸಾ.ಸಂ.ಇ/ಯಾದಗಿರ/556/ಕೆ.ಎಸ್.ಎಂ.ಸಿ.&ಎ/2025-26

Government of Karnataka
MINOR IRRIGATION AND GROUND WATER DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT
Office of the Executive Engineer
Minor Irrigation Division, Chikkaballapura
Land Line : 08156-295427, Fax : 08156-295427, E-Mail - eemidcbpura@gmail.com

No : EE/MID/Cbpur/TA/Re Tender Notification/2025-26 Date :-25-02-2026

Short term Pre – Qualification Re tender notification KPP Portal

On behalf of Governor of Karnataka Executive Engineer, Minor Irrigation & Ground Water Development Division, Chikkaballapura had invited tenders for eligible bidders through KPP-Portal for the following work (KW-6) in one cover system. Under this office Tender Notification 14/2025-26, Dated : 10/11/2025, Vide as per Govt Order No : MID/14/LIS/2026, Dated : 24/02/2026, it is directed to Cancel the tender and call for retender. hence eligible tenderers are informed to submit tenders through KPP-Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in as follows:

1) Downloading **Pre - Qualification** tender document start Dt : 25/02/2026 @ 04:30 PM
2) Pre-Bid meeting Dt : 27/02/2026 @ 11:00 AM
Address: office of Superintending Engineer office, M. I. & GWD, Jayanagar 4th block BDA complex, 3rd floor, Bengaluru
3) Last date of uploading tender document : 10/03/2026 @ 04:30 PM
4) Opening of technical bid Dt : 12/03/2026 @ 11:00 AM

Sl No	Name of work	Estimated Cost (Rs in Crores)	Tender Processing (Rs. In Rs)	Stipulated period of completion including monsoon	Class of Contractor
1	2	3	4	5	6
1	Filling of 45 tanks in Shidlaghatta taluk and 119 tanks of Chintamani Taluk, total 164 tanks of Chikkaballapur district from Shidlaghatta Amani kere, as a 3rd phase of Lift irrigation scheme of lifting the secondary treated water from Bangalore urban Hebbala-Nagawara Valley to fill 65 tanks of Bangalore urban, Bangalore Rural and Chikkaballapura Districts	237.10	As specified in KPP- portal	24 Months	Class-I Contractor & Above

For More details, Contact the office of the undersigned (Phone: 08156-295427 Email: eemidcbpura@gmail.com) and also through website: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in by clicking list of tenders which will link to all department works list. The Executive Engineer reserves the right to accept or reject tender without giving any reason.

Executive Engineer,
Minor Irrigation & Ground Water
Development Division, Chikkaballapura

BANGALORE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED
(Wholly Owned Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
CIN-U04010KA2002SGC030438

SHORT TERM BRIEF TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through KPP Portal mode only)

The Chief Engineer Ele., Bangalore Rural Area Zone, BESCOM, Bengaluru invites tender for the following through KPP portal in two cover system.

Enquiry No. & Date	Particulars	Approx Amount put to tender (excld GST)
CEBRAZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/ Enq No. ET 207/2025-26/ dated 27-02-2026	Conversion of 11 kV overhead line by 3x400 sqmm XLPE UG cable from 66/11kV AWHO MUSS to Redraino building in Sai Garden O&M unit in Avalahalli sub-division.	Rs.16,93,973/- EMD: Rs.42,349/-
CEBRAZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/ Enq No. ET 208/2025-26/ dated 27-02-2026	Bifurcation of industrial load from F9 solur feeder by Conversion of 11 kV overhead line by HT UG cable of F9 solur feeder of 66/11kV Anekal MUSS feeding of different location in Anekal sub-division.	Rs.1,60,03,652/- EMD: Rs.2,40,055/-
CEBRAZ/SEE(O)/AEE-1/ Enq No. ET 209/2025-26/ dated 27-02-2026	Providing 11 kV line between F4 Shakti feeder and F2 Saibaba feeder for bifurcation of 11 kV load from F4 Shakti feederby providing 11 kV 400 sqmm XLPE UG cable to a distance of 3.5 kms from Kumbaranahalli water supply tank to Anekal Kanakapura Road (Naidu poultry farm) in Anekal sub-division.	Rs.1,48,24,767/- EMD: Rs.2,22,372/-
Contract period (each work): **6 months**		

Bid document available on KPPP portal: **04-03-2026 after 12:00 hrs.** IST. Pre-bid meeting: **07-03-2026 at 11:00 hrs.** IST. Last date for submission of queries: **09-03-2026 upto 17:00 hrs.** IST. Last date for submission of bid documents: **12-03-2026 upto 17:00 hrs,** IST. Date and time of opening technical bid: **13-03-2026 at 17:10 hrs,** IST.

The details regarding participation in the tender can be obtained through KPP portal from the website: **kpppusers@karnataka.gov.in** on or after **04-03-2026**. Aspiring bidders need to register on e-procurement portal.

All the payments such as tender processing fee, EMD etc. shall be made through e-payment mode. Further any clarification contact help desk 09240214000 & 09240214001 Or E-mail: support@eprochelpdesk.com and 080-23500164 or 9449844798.

For Electricity related complaints call: 1912
Download BESCOM Mithra Mobile APP

Sd/-
Chief Engineer, Electy.,
BRAZ, BESCOM, Bangalore-44.

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ
Cost Effective Building Materials & Technology Transfer Center (Sponssored by Govt of India, HUDCO & Govt.of Karnataka)
ಎಂಪಿಎಲ್‌ಎಡಿಎಸ್: ಸಿಆರ್/24/& 07/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 28.02.2026

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆಯ ಹರಿಹರ, ಜಗಳೂರು ಮತ್ತು ಮಾಯಕೊಂಡ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡ ಗ್ರಾಮಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಹೈ ಮಾಸ್ಟ್ ಲೈಟ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿವೆ.

ಕ್ರ.ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಸ್ಥಳ	ಪರಿಮಾಣ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ
1	ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಹರಿಹರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕುಂಬಳೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮ ಪಂಚಾಯಿತಿ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ವಿನಾಯಕ ನಗರ ಗ್ರಾಮದ ಶ್ರೀ ರಾಮದೇವರ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನ ಮತ್ತು ವಿನಾಯಕ ದೇವಸ್ಥಾನಗಳ ರಸ್ತೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಹೈ ಮಾಸ್ಟ್ ಲೈಟ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ	02 Nos	12 Mtr Octagonal solar minimast Mannual ladder (MMS) for 150 W Panel x 4 Nos with light ring hot dip galvanised Bottom dia: 240mm, Top dia: 100 mm, Base plate: 330 pcd Jbolt & template: M 24x750 mm Lx6nos with nuts & washer, 2.5 Sqmm x 4C flexible Cable , 80W solar LED Flood lightning system. Panel:150W solar panel x 4nos Battery:60Ah 12.8V life, PO4 Battery x 4nos LED: 80W Solar LED Luminaries x 4nos with cable accessories Including foundation work Rcc pedestal, Supplying, Fixing, Testing and Commissioning.
2	ಜಗಳೂರು ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಬೆಣ್ಣೆಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಹೈಮಾಸ್ಟ ಲೈಟ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು	02 Nos	
3	ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕು ಕೆರೆಯಾಗಳಹಳ್ಳಿ ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿ ಸೋಲಾರ್ ಹೈಮಾಸ್ಟ್ ಲೈಟ್ ಅಳವಡಿಸುವುದು	02 Nos	

ಸದರಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣಾ ದಿನಾಂಕ: **28.02.2026**, ಭರ್ತಿ ಮಾಡಿದ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು **ರೂ. 30,000/-** ಗಳ ಯೋಜನಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ಇವರ ಹೆಸರಿಗೆ ತೆಗೆಸಿದ ಡಿ.ಡಿಯೊಂದಿಗೆ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **11.03.2026** ಸಂಜೆ 05:00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ, ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಮತ್ತು ಸಮಯ: **12.03.2026** ಮಧ್ಯಾಹ್ನ 12.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **nkdvg@rediffmail.com** ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಗೆ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. ಈ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ನ್ನು ಅಂಗೀಕರಿಸುವ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರವು ಯಾವುದೇ ಕಾರಣ ನೀಡದೇ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಗಳನ್ನು ತಿರಸ್ಕರಿಸುವ ಅಧಿಕಾರವನ್ನು ಹೊಂದಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಫಾರಂಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ವಿಳಾಸ: **ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ಬಕ್ಕೇಶ್ವರ ರೈಸ್ ಮಿಲ್ ರಸ್ತೆ, ಲೋಕಿಕೆರೆ ಇಂಡಸ್ಟ್ರೀಯಲ್ ಏರಿಯಾ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ - 577005.**

ಸಹಿ/- ಯೋಜನಾ ವ್ಯವಸ್ಥಾಪಕರು, ನಿರ್ಮಿತಿ ಕೇಂದ್ರ, ದಾವಣಗೆರೆ.

ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ಲೋ.ಇ./ಬಾ.ವಿ./ಪಿ.ಬಿ./ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ/2025-26/5212 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 26-02-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999 - 2000 ರ ಪ್ರಕಾರ ಆ್ಯಕ್ಟ 2000 ರ ನಿಯಮದಂತೆ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಬಿಡ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ - 1, 2, 3, 4 ನಿಯಮದನ್ವಯ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತರಾದ ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ **ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ವಿಭಾಗದ ಅಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿಯ** ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ವರ್ಕ ಇಂಡೆಂಟ್ ನಂ. ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ : 33638, 33567, 33726, 33734, 32609, 32611, 32411, 31568, 33159, 31113, 31119, 31111, 31106, 31108, 33196, 33197, 33988, 34052, 34021, 34136, 33968, 31116, 34153, 31110.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಜಾತಿ : 28985, 34157.

ಪರಿಶಿಷ್ಟ ಪಂಗಡ : 34150.

ಕ್ಯಾಟಗರಿ – 2(ಎ) : 33739, 34020.

ಈ ಎಲ್ಲ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಗರಿಷ್ಠ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಿಟ್ಟ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 400.00 ಲಕ್ಷ ಹಾಗೂ ಕನಿಷ್ಠ ಮೊತ್ತ ರೂ. 10.00 ಲಕ್ಷಗಳ ವರೆಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಈ ಕೆಳಕಾಣಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕಗಳಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಅಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

ಅ) ಪೂರ್ವ ಭಾವಿ ಸಭೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	13-03-2026 ರ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.30 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ.
ಬ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಕ್ಷೇಪಣೆಗಾಗಿ ನಿಗಧಿ ಪಡಿಸಿದ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	16-03-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 5.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಕ) ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	18-03-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.00 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಡ) ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	20-03-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.
ಚ) ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ	:	23-03-2026 ರ ಸಂಜೆ 4.30 ಘಂಟೆಯವರೆಗೆ.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದ ವಿವರವಾದ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ವೈಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ ವಿಳಾಸ : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in ರಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯನಿರ್ವಾಹಕ ಇಂಜಿನೀಯರರು,
ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.

ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/616/ಮಣಿಪಾಲ್/2025-26

ಕ.ಇಂ/ಪಂ.ರಾ.ಇಂ.ವಿ-ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:/21/2025-26 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 27-02-2026

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ. ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಮಾನ್ಯ ರಾಜ್ಯಪಾಲರ ಪರವಾಗಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೇದಿಕೆ ಪದ್ದತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ KW-3 ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರು ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರ ಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ವಿವರ	ಮೀಸಲಾತಿ	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ (ರೂ. ಲಕ್ಷಗಳಲ್ಲಿ)
1	Proving Necessary Protection Work with Drainage Facility at Galibeedu Madikeri Taluk	GEN	64.75
2	Providing Necessary Protection Work with Drainage Facility at 2nd Monnangeri Madikeri Taluk	GEN	61.35
3	Providing Necessary Protection Work with Drainage Facility at Makkandur Madikeri Taluk	GEN	65.60
4	Providing Necessary Protection Work with Drainage Facility at Made Madikeri Taluk	SC	60.30
5	providing necessary Protection work with drainage facilities at Galibeedu-Kalooru road in Galibeedu GP Madikeri Taluk	GEN	80.00
6	Providing necessary Protection work with drainage facilities at Galibeedu-Kalooru road in Galibeedu GP Madikeri Taluk	CAT-2A	80.00
7	Providing necessary Protection work with drainage facilities at Galibeedu-Kalooru road in Galibeedu GP Madikeri Taluk	GEN	80.00
8	Providing necessary Protection work with drainage facilities at 2nd Monnangeri road inGalibeedu GP Madikeri Taluk	GEN	70.00
9	Providing necessary Protection work with drainage facilities and bridge at 2nd Monnangeri road in Galibeedu GP Madikeri Taluk	CAT-2A	70.00
10	Providing necessary Protection work with drainage facilities at 2nd Monnangeri Govt. School road in Galibeedu GP Madikeri Taluk	GEN	80.00
11	Providing necessary Protection work with drainage facilities at Hebettageri e - Kumaraswamy colony road in Kalakerinidugane GP Madikeri Taluk	GEN	80.00
12	Providing Necessary Protection Work with Drainage Facility at Hanagallu Somwarpet taluku.	GEN	63.85
13	Providing necessary Protection work and concrete drain to protect land slidinig at cherala bhagavthi temple road (near tank) in cherala shrimangala villege - chettalli GP, Kushalanagar taluku.	ST	56.00
14	Construction of Retaining Wall near Kirihole at Anugraha Layout Gonikoppa Taluk	GEN	100.00
15	Providing Necessary Protection Work with Drainage Facility at Sampaje	ST	70.00

1. ಭರ್ತಿಮಾಡಿದ **KPPP** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 18-03-2026 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆವರೆಗೆ
2. **KPPP** ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ಗಳ ಬಿಡ್ಡ್ ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20-03-2026 ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ 11.00 ಗಂಟೆ ನಂತರ.

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ ಷರತ್ತು ಹಾಗೂ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ವಿಭಾಗ ಕಛೇರಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪಬ್ಲಿಕ್ ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ವೆಬ್ ಸೈಟ್ **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/- ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಇಂಜಿನಿಯರ್
ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಂ.ವಿಭಾಗ, ಮಡಿಕೇರಿ

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Sd/-
Sr. Controller of Administration

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD
Office of the Executive Engineer, Division, M.G. Road, Karwar-581301.
Tele No.: 08382201080 Email Id: eekuwsdbkwr@gmail.com

TENDER NOTIFICATION.
(Through KPPP Portal only)

Lump sum Tenders for the following works are invited (two cover system) through KPPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from the firms/contractors who satisfy the Financial & Technical Eligibility Criteria (For details please refer KPPP Portal) vide this office Tender Notification No:1998, Date: 27/02/2026.

For the Work of **"Upgradation of division office at Karwar under M&R to Karwar–Ankola water supply scheme for the year 2025-26 – No variation (Lumpsum Tender)" Indent No: KUWSDB/2025-26/BD/WORK_INDENT450/Call3** For more information go through the KPPP portal or visit the office during the office hours.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
KUWS & D BOARD, DIVISION, KARWAR

DIPR/ADK/KSMCA/1158/25-26 dt. 27.02.2026

BENGALURU NORTH CITY CORPORATION
Office of the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2, Hesaraghatta Main Road, MEI Layout, Bagalagunte, Bengaluru - 560 073.

No: BBMP/EE/DD/TEND/07/2025-26 Date: 27.02.2026

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through GOK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)
(Two Cover System)

Tenders are invited by the Executive Engineer, Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2, for the services mentioned below under the KTPP Act 2000 through electronic two cover tendering system (KPPP) in prescribed format from registered agency of Government of Karnataka Organizations.

The Tender Document can be downloaded from the GOK KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) website on payment of prescribed fee noted against item of work (Non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through KPPP Platform. The tenderer should accompany a copy of the Registration Certificate valid upto the Block Period and shall be submitted through KPP Portal.

Sl. No.	Name of the Service
1	Operation, supervision and maintenance of Mens & Womens Gym Building (2nd & 3rd Floor) in Ward No.17, J.P. Park, Rajarajeshwarinagara Constituency. **EMD: Rs. 61,000/-. Period of Service:** 5 Years/ 60 Months **Contractor Eligibility:** As per KPP Portal.

Calendar of Events: (1) Pre-bid meeting : **06.03.2026 at 3.00 p.m.** 2) Last date & time for Tender Queries/Clarification: **06.03.2026 upto 11.00 a.m.** (3) Last date & time for receipt of tender : **16.03.2026 upto 3.00 p.m.** (4) Opening of Technical Bid: **17.03.2026 at 4.00 p.m.** (5) Opening of Financial Bid: **18.03.2026 at 11.00 a.m.** In the event of the specified date of tender opening being declared holiday for Employer, the tenders will be opened at the Appointed Time and location on the Next working day.

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP Portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
Dasarahalli Division, Zone-2,
Bengaluru North City Corporation

Trump raises prospect of 'friendly takeover' of Cuba

WASHINGTON, REUTERS: US President Donald Trump on Friday raised the prospect of a "friendly takeover" of Cuba, telling reporters at the White House that Secretary of State Marco Rubio was dealing with the issue at a "very high level."

"The Cuban government is talking with us, and they're in a big deal of trouble," Trump said as he left the White House for a trip to Texas. "They have no money. They have no anything right now, but they're talking with us, and maybe we'll have a friendly takeover of Cuba."

France warns of 'provocation' over Russian drone activity

MALMÖ, AFP: France's foreign minister said on Friday that if a drone seen this week near a French aircraft carrier visiting Sweden turned out to be Russian -- a claim Moscow called "absurd" -- it would be a "ridiculous provocation".

Sweden said one of its navy vessels had spotted and jammed the drone 13 kilometres (eight miles) from France's Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier.

On Thursday, Sweden's Defence Minister Pal Jonson told the broadcaster SVT that the drone was "probably" of Russian origin.

"There was a Russian military vessel in the immediate vicinity at the time," he added. "If indeed... there is a potential Russian origin for this incident, the only conclusion I would draw is that it would be a ridiculous provocation," French Foreign Minister Jean-Noel Barrot Said.

Military offensive: 'Terrorist groups will gain strength by exploiting chaos'

Pak's Afghan salvo risks long crisis

KARACHI, REUTERS

Weeks after the Taliban's lightning offensive in 2021 wrested control of Afghanistan from a US-led military coalition, Pakistan's then intelligence chief flew into the capital Kabul for talks, where the serving lieutenant general told a reporter: "Don't worry, everything will be okay." Five years on, Islamabad - long seen as a patron of the Taliban - is locked in its heaviest fighting with the Islamist group, which Pakistan's Defence Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif described on Friday as an "open war".

The turmoil means that a wide swathe of Asia - from the Gulf to the Himalayas - is now in flux, with the United States building up a military deployment against Afghanistan's neighbour Iran even as relations between Pakistan and arch rival India remain on edge after four days of fighting last May.

At the heart of the conflict with Afghanistan is Pakistan's accusation that the Afghan Taliban provides support to militant groups, including the Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan (TTP), that have wreaked havoc across inside the South Asian country.

The Afghan Taliban, which has previously fought alongside the TTP, denies the charge, insisting that Pakistan's security situation is its internal problem. The disagreement is a reflection of starkly incompatible positions taken by both sides, as Pakistan expected compliance after decades of support to the Taliban, which did not see itself beholden to Islamabad, analysts said.

"Neither side had an honest conversation about what the relationship would actually look like. That structural misunderstanding is the seed of everything that followed," said Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili, a political scientist at the University of Pittsburgh and an Afghanistan expert.

A Taliban security personnel stands guard as Afghan Muslim devotees offer the second Friday prayers during the month of Ramadan along a road in Kabul on Friday. AFP

HISTORIC TENSIONS

- Afghanistan and Pakistan share the disputed Durand Line, a colonial-era frontier that Kabul has never formally recognised
- Cross-border militant sanctuaries, refugee flows and accusations of interference have strained ties for decades
- Since the Taliban's return to power, relations have seesawed between cautious engagement and open hostility
- Border crossings have frequently shut following clashes, disrupting trade and the movement of people.

Saudi Arabia, Qatar try to de-escalate conflict

Saudi Arabia and Qatar are engaged in efforts to halt deadly fighting between Pakistan and Afghanistan, a source with knowledge of the talks told AFP on Friday.

The diplomatic drive comes as fears of a spiralling conflict grew after Pakistan bombed major cities in Afghanistan, declaring that they were in an "open war" with the Taliban."Saudi Arabia, in coordination with Qatar, is making efforts to reduce tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan," said the source, requesting anonymity to discuss sensitive matters. The goal is to "de-escalate the situation and prevent it from spiralling out of control," they added.

Although tensions have simmered along their rugged 2,600-km (1,615-mile) frontier for months, following clashes last October, Friday's fighting is notable because of Pakistan's use of warplanes to hit Taliban military installations instead of confining the attacks to the militants it allegedly harbours. These include targets deep inside the country in Kabul, as well as the southern city of Kandahar, the seat of Taliban supreme leader Hibatullah Akhundzada, according to Pakistan military spokesman Lieutenant General Ahmed Sharif Chaudhry.

The clashes are unlikely to end there. "We are in uncharted territory," said Abdul Basit, an expert on militancy and violent extremism at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

"What we are witnessing is a recipe for instability, as a result of which there will be more violence, there will be more tensions. And terrorist groups will gain strength by exploiting the chaos. " he further added.

> "India strongly condemns Pakistan's air strikes, noting that they took place during the holy month of Ramadan. It is another attempt by Pakistan to externalise its internal failures
> Randhir Jaiswal, MEA

Nightmare for Pakistan

Nuclear-armed Pakistan has a formidable military of 660,000 active personnel, backed by a fleet of 465 combat aircraft, several thousand armoured fighting vehicles and artillery pieces. Across the border, the Afghan Taliban has only around 172,000 active military personnel, a smattering of armoured vehicles and no real air force. But the battle-hardened group, which took on a phalanx of Western military powers in 2001 and outlasted them, has the option to lean on insurgents like the TTP and the Baloch Liberation Army (BLA), moving beyond border skirmishes.

"So either the Taliban can basically take a step back from the brink, or they can step forward and continue fighting at the borderland, but also increase support for TTP, BLA, and all the other groups to operate inside Pakistan," said Avinash Paliwal, reader in international relations at SOAS University of London.

US to bring in 4,500 white S Africans per month as refugees

WASHINGTON, REUTERS

The US aims to process 4,500 refugee applications from white South Africans per month, far above President Donald Trump's stated refugee program cap, and is installing trailers on embassy property in Pretoria to support the effort, a U.S. contracting document said.

The new target, contained in a previously unreported document from the US State Department dated January 27, signals a push to ramp up admissions from South Africa, while refugee applications from other areas have been severely curtailed. Trump has said the U.S. would only admit 7,500 total refugees from around the world in fiscal year 2026, while a much higher cap of 40,000 to 60,000 was discussed internally last year. Only 2,000 white South Africans had entered the U.S. as refugees as of January 31 under a program launched in May 2025, although the pace has picked up in recent months.

The ambitious target could also face administrative delays in Washington, which in recent weeks have halted all refugee travel to the US, including from South Africa, according to a US official familiar with the matter.

A US State Department spokesperson declined to comment on the contracting document but said Trump had publicly explained the reason for the program for white South Africans.

"The US position on this humanitarian initiative is unchanged," the spokesperson said.

The US Department of Homeland Security did not respond to requests for comment. The White House referred questions to the State Department. The South African Chamber of Commerce in the U.S. said last year that more than 67,000 people had expressed interest in relocating.

IAEA report says Iran must allow inspections, points at Isfahan

Nuclear watchdog flags Tehran's 60% uranium reserve

VIENNA, REUTERS

The UN nuclear watchdog issued a confidential report on Friday urging Iran to let it inspect all its nuclear sites and pointing at Isfahan as a place of interest because of a new enrichment plant and near-bomb-grade uranium that was stored there.

The report was sent to members of the International Atomic Energy Agency ahead of a quarterly meeting next week of its 35-country board, amid nuclear talks between the United States and Iran, the latest round of which was held on Thursday with no breakthrough.

Like previous IAEA reports, it could be used by Washington to support its argument that Tehran has not been transparent about its nuclear activities, at a time when US President Donald Trump has massed forces in the region.

The United States and Israel bombed Iranian nuclear sites last June, and Iran has since refused to show what happened to its stockpile of highly enriched uranium or allow IAEA inspectors access to sites where enrichment took place.

"While the Agency acknowledged that the military attacks on Iran's nuclear facilities had created an unprecedented situation, it is critical for it to conduct verification activities in Iran without any further delay," the report seen by Reuters said.Allowing inspections was "indispensable and urgent", it said. It also said a successful outcome in the U.S.-Iranian negotiations would have a "positive impact on the effective implementation of safeguards in Iran and the resolution of issues described in this report".

The IAEA estimates that Iran had 440.9 kg of uranium enriched to up to 60% before last year's Israeli-U.S. attacks - enough, if enriched further, for 10 nuclear weapons, according to an IAEA yardstick.

The agency and Western powers believe the bulk of that is still intact. Washington wants Tehran to give it up.

The report provided new details about activity at Isfahan, where diplomats have said much of the Islamic Republic's most highly enriched uranium has been stored in a tunnel complex that appears to have averted destruction last June.

For the first time, the report confirmed that material enriched to up to 20% and 60% had been kept there.

US advises embassy staff in Israel to leave

The US Embassy in Israel on Friday told its staff that it could leave the country and urged anyone considering departure to do so immediately, as the threat of an American strike on Iran looms, reports AP. US Ambassador Mike Huckabee told embassy staff in an email that discussions with officials had led to decision authorizing departures for those who wished to leave. "Those wishing to take AD should do so TODAY," Huckabee wrote, using an acronym for "authorized departure."

DONALD TRUMP
US President

"I'm not happy with the fact that they're not willing to give us what we have to have. I'm not thrilled with that. We'll see what happens. We're talking late.

Melania Trump to preside over UN Security Council meeting

UNITED NATIONS, AFP: Melania Trump will preside over a UN Security Council meeting next week, her office has announced, in the first such appearance by a US first lady.

"First Lady Melania Trump is set to make history at the United Nations, taking the gavel as the United States assumes the Security Council Presidency to emphasize education's role in advancing tolerance and world peace," her office said in a statement Wednesday.

The meeting at 3:00 pm (2000 GMT) on Monday will focus on education, technology, peace and security and marks the first time a sitting US first lady presides over the Security Council, the statement added.

Shocker for Keir Starmer-led Labour as Green Party wins UK bypoll

LONDON, PTI

Prime Minister Keir Starmer-led Labour Party was hit with a major ballot box shocker in northern England on Friday as the Left-wing Green Party candidate relegated the governing party to third place after far-right Reform UK.

Hannah Spencer, a 34-year-old plumber by profession and newcomer to politics, hailed her win as a sign that the Greens can unseat other Labour members of Parliament too in future.

Confronted about her campaign's controversial Urdu language videos and leaflets featuring Starmer with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Israeli premier Benjamin Netanyahu, the newly-elected MP for Gorton and Denton in Greater Manchester dismissed the allegations that they were "sectarian" in nature.

Green Party's candidate Hannah Spencer reacts during vote counting in the Gorton and Denton by-election in Manchester, Britain, on Friday. REUTERS

"I think all of us know what it feels to be shut out of the system that isn't built for us and I will always go out of my way to try and include people who are struggling to access something," Spencer said.

When asked why her campaign material featured Modi, she was dismissive.

"I have just been out every day talking to people, listening to people, and when people weren't able to access information in a way that other people might, we tried to learn from that and tried to give literature and information in a language that they speak," she said.

However, Labour had accused the Greens of using divisive tactics in a blatant attempt to appeal to the constituency's significant British Pakistani electorate.

Bill Clinton says he was unaware of Jeffrey Epstein crimes

WASHINGTON, AP: Former President Bill Clinton started his deposition before members of Congress investigating convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein on Friday by telling them he "did nothing wrong" and saw no signs of Epstein's abuse.

The closed-door deposition in Chappaqua, New York, marks the first time a former president has been compelled to testify to Congress. It came a day after Clinton's wife, former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, sat with lawmakers for her own deposition.

Bill Clinton has also not been accused of any wrongdoing. Yet lawmakers are grappling with what accountability in the United States looks like at a time when men around the world have been toppled from their high-powered posts for maintaining their connections with Epstein after he pleaded guilty in 2008 to state charges in Florida for soliciting prostitution from an underage girl.

Bill Clinton.

"Men - and women for that matter - of great power and great wealth from all across the world have been able to get away with a lot of heinous crimes and they haven't been held accountable and they have not even had to answer questions," said Republican Rep. James Comer, the chair of the House Oversight Committee, before the deposition began Friday.

Hillary Clinton told lawmakers on Thursday that she had no knowledge of how Epstein had sexually abused underage girls and had no recollection of even meeting him. But Bill Clinton will have to answer questions on a well-documented relationship with Epstein.

WORLD AT A GLANCE

Emergency services work at the scene following a deadly tram derailment in Milan, Italy, on Friday. Two people were killed and around 40 injured in the mishap. REUTERS

B'desh ex-PM Hasina named in chargesheet in murder case

▸ Bangladesh's ousted prime minister Sheikh Hasina is among 25 people named in a chargesheet filed by police in a case of murder in the capital during the July Uprising, a media report said on Friday, reports PTI from Dhaka .

The Anti-Terrorism Unit (ATU) of police filed the chargesheet against 25 people, including Hasina and former ministers Obaidul Quader and Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal, in the case of murder of Abujar Sheikh in the capital's Pragati Sarani area, state-run BSS reported.

According to the case documents, Sheikh was shot on the evening of July 19, 2024, while an anti-discrimination student-public procession was underway in front of Baridhara General Hospital on Pragati Sarani in Gulshan.

Sheikh Hasina.

Local leaders of the Awami League and Jubo League allegedly opened fire on the procession, according to the chargesheet.

Sheikh was first admitted to Evercare Hospital and later transferred to Dhaka Metropolitan Hospital for advanced treatment. He died on July 27 of the same year while undergoing treatment.

Spain alerts WHO of swine flu virus

▸ Spain has alerted the World Health Organization of what it believes to be a person-to-person transmission of the swine flu virus in its A(H1N1)v variant, a spokesperson for health authorities in the Catalonia region confirmed to Reuters on Friday, reports Reuters from Barcelona.

In a later statement, the Catalan health department said the risk assessment for the population was considered "very low".

The person infected did not exhibit flu-like respiratory symptoms, it said, and tests on direct contacts showed the virus had not retransmitted.

Cambodia's Deputy Prime Minister Hun Many attends a ceremony to welcome 74 cultural artefacts as they were returned after being plundered abroad by a notorious British antiques smuggler, in Phnom Penh on Friday. AFP

'Violence against women on rise'

▸ The UN rights chief on Friday decried mounting threats to women's rights worldwide, highlighting rampant femicide and horrific abuse exposed in cases like that of US sex offender Jefferey Epstein, reports AFP from Geneva.

Addressing the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva, Volker Turk slammed "social systems that silence women and girls" and allow powerful men to abuse them with impunity.

"Violence against women, including femicide, is a global emergency," the High Commissioner for Human Rights told the UN's top rights body.

Nasa shakes up moon mission

▸ Nasa added a new mission to its Artemis moon program involving a spacecraft docking test in Earth's orbit before landing its first astronauts on the moon in over half a century, overhauling the flagship U.S. moon effort amid competitive pressure from China, reports Reuters from Washington.

The new Artemis mission, planned for 2027, is one of many moon program changes the US space agency announced on Friday as China inches closer to its own 2030 crewed moon landing goal, and US safety experts warn more testing is needed before Nasa makes its crewed attempt to land on the moon.

Actor Demi Moore, carrying her dog Pilaf, speaks with fashion designer Donatella Versace ahead of a catwalk show for Gucci's Fall/Winter 2026/2027 collection during Fashion Week in Milan, Italy, on Friday. REUTERS

GAFX sector can create 20L jobs in next 5 years, says CM

Kharge calls for ecosystem centred on IP ownership

BENGALURU, DHNS

The Games, Animation and Visual Effects (GAFX) sector has the potential to create 20 lakh jobs in the next five years, across design, coding, storytelling, music and AI modelling, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah said.

Inaugurating the seventh edition of Bengaluru GAFX-2026 here on Friday, he said the GAFX sector is not only an economic opportunity, but a civilisational opportunity.

The state is positioning itself at the forefront of the Orange Economy. The CM said Karnataka's vision for the AVGC-XR (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming, Comics, and Extended Reality) sector rests on building a large and future-ready talent pipeline; strengthening infrastructure and production ecosystems; supporting startups and original intellectual property; expanding opportunities beyond Bengaluru; and building global partnerships.

Karnataka will expand industry-aligned curriculum, promote certification programmes and strengthen academia-industry collaboration. Karnataka is currently implementing the third AVGC-XR Policy for the period 2024-29.

Talking about AI, the CM said AI must remain a tool and not a substitute for human imagination. "Technology should amplify human potential, not erase it. The soul of storytelling is human emotion, something no algorithm can replicate in its fullness," he said, stressing the ethical usage of AI.

He also called upon industry leaders to invest in original content.

While we encourage innovation in animation and gaming, the CM stated that we must also uphold responsibility, promoting ethical game design that avoids glorifying violence, safeguards the mental wellbeing of children, and encourages creativity, critical thinking and positive social values.

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar said Karnataka is also a global leader in the AVGC-XR sector, setting international benchmarks. "The AVGC Centre in Karnataka has supported landmark projects like KGF, and by 2028, we will train 50,000 students, with nearly 70% of the workforce being creative professionals," he said.

The AVGC-XR sector is among the fastest-growing industries worldwide. India's sector is already valued at over Rs 20,000 crore, growing at 25-30% annually, with the potential to create more than 1.5 lakh new jobs in the coming years.

CM Siddaramaiah addresses the inauguration of the 7th Edition of Bengaluru GAFX in Bengaluru on Friday.
DH PHOTO/B K JANARDHAN

Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar checks out a VR headset, as IT/BT Minister Priyank Kharge and others look on, at the 7th Edition of Bengaluru GAFX on Friday.

The three-day summit, with the theme 'Evolution Reloaded,' marks the next phase of growth for the AVGC industry.

A major highlight of GAFX 2026 will be its focus on AI and its transformative impact on animation and visual effects production.

Meanwhile, IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge chaired high-level consultation meetings with industry leaders and global partners at the GIA (Global Innovation Alliance) International Roundtable during Bengaluru GAFX 2026 to develop a strategic blueprint for transitioning the state's AVGC-XR sector from a predominantly service-led model to one driven by original IP creation.

Kharge emphasised that Karnataka must now move decisively beyond outsourced services and build a robust ecosystem centred on IP ownership, innovation and global competitiveness. "As AI rapidly transforms animation, gaming and content creation, Karnataka must stay ahead of disruption. Our focus is clear — strengthen skilling, expand global collaboration through the GIA framework, and move decisively from a service-led model to one driven by original IP creation," he said.

'AI model, app development among hardest skills to find'

Survey shows employers face hiring challenges

BENGALURU, DHNS

Organisations are now finding it difficult to find people with AI skills, as AI Model & Application Development (39%) and AI Literacy (38%) are now leading the ranking of hard-to-find skills compared to traditional IT/data skills.

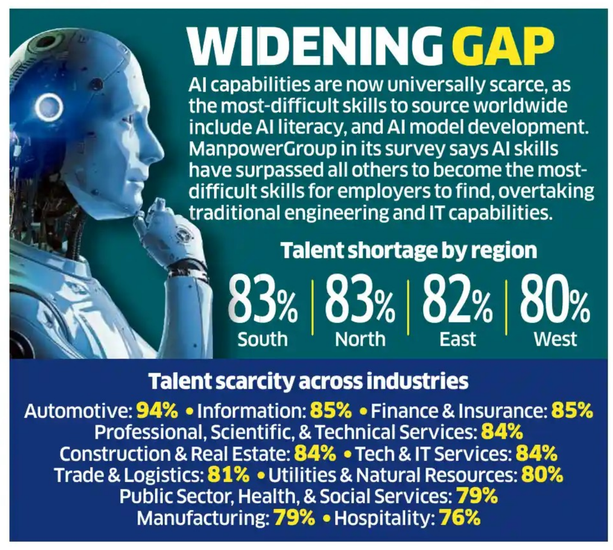
The 2026 Talent Shortage Survey released by workforce solutions firm ManpowerGroup on Friday revealed that there is pressure to find AI talent. The findings also show that employers in the country face significant hiring challenges, with 82% reporting difficulty in filling roles above the global average of 72%.

The research that covered over 39,000 employers across 41 countries revealed that there has been a widening structural skill mismatch, as organisations struggle to secure both advanced technical expertise and essential soft skills. India ranks among the most talent-constrained markets globally, alongside countries such as Slovakia (87%), Greece (84%), and Japan (84%).

In India, more than eight in 10 employers reported difficulty finding the talent they need in 2026, and talent shortage is at 83% in both the South and North. "India's talent shortage signals a structural transformation in the labour market rather than cyclical. The surge in demand for AI skills — particularly AI literacy and model development — reflects that AI is not replacing jobs, but fundamentally reshaping how work gets done. Employers are no longer hiring only for roles, but for future readiness," Sandeep Gulati, MD, India and Middle East, ManpowerGroup India, said.

To remain competitive in this new talent-scarce era, organisations must move beyond conventional hiring. With 37% already prioritising upskilling and 35% expanding access to new talent pools, building AI capability at scale must become a long-term workforce strategy, he added.

In India, at 94%, the auto industry faces the highest talent scarcity, followed by Information, Finance & Insurance at 85%. Even amid the surge in AI demand, core human skills remain in demand. The report cited communication, collaboration and teamwork, apart from critical thinking and problem-solving, as the most-important soft skills.


WIDENING GAP
AI capabilities are now universally scarce, as the most-difficult skills to source worldwide include AI literacy, and AI model development. ManpowerGroup in its survey says AI skills have surpassed all others to become the most-difficult skills for employers to find, overtaking traditional engineering and IT capabilities.
Talent shortage by region
83% South
83% North
82% East
80% West
Talent scarcity across industries
Automotive: 94% • Information: 85% • Finance & Insurance: 85%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services: 84%
Construction & Real Estate: 84% • Tech & IT Services: 84%
Trade & Logistics: 81% • Utilities & Natural Resources: 80%
Public Sector, Health, & Social Services: 79%
Manufacturing: 79% • Hospitality: 76%

Sensex dives 961 pts amid mounting geopolitical worries

MUMBAI, PTI

Benchmark Sensex tanked 961 points, while the broader Nifty settled below 25,200 on Friday due to fresh foreign fund outflows and subdued global trends amid rising geopolitical risks.

The 30-share BSE Sensex tanked 961.42 points or 1.17% to settle at 81,287.19. During the day, it dropped 1,089.46 points or 1.32% to 81,159.15.

The 50-share NSE Nifty tumbled 317.90 points or 1.25% to end at 25,178.65.

The lack of progress in US-Iran nuclear talks intensified concerns of further escalation of Middle East tensions, experts said.

Sun Pharma, Bharti Airtel, Bajaj Finserv, InterGlobe Aviation, Mahindra & Mahindra and Maruti were the major laggards. HCL Tech, Trent, Infosys and Eternal were the gainers.

Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 3,465.99 crore on Thursday, according to exchange data. Domestic Institutional Investors (DIIs), however, bought stocks worth Rs 5,031.57 crore.

"Indian markets continued to consolidate amid weak global cues and rising geopolitical risks, with investor sentiment turning increasingly cautious. The lack of progress in US-Iran nuclear talks has intensified concerns of further escalation of Middle East tensions, while persistent AI-related uncertainty is also supporting safe-haven flows. Domestically, a risk-off tone prevails as the earnings season winds down and global macro factors take precedence," Vinod Nair, Head of Research, Geojit Investments Limited, said.

Among sectoral indices, realty dropped 2.25%, followed by telecommunication (1.83%), auto (1.81%), metal (1.57%), commodities (1.56%), FMCG (1.52%) and financial services (1.50%). IT and BSE Focused IT were the only gainers.

The BSE smallcap select index declined 0.84% and midcap select index dipped 0.71%.

A total of 2,528 stocks declined, while 1,660 advanced and 181 remained unchanged on the BSE.

On the weekly front, the BSE benchmark tanked 1,527.52 points or 1.84%, and the Nifty declined 392.6 points or 1.53%.

In Asian markets, South Korea's Kospi fell by 1%. Japan's Nikkei 225, Shanghai's SSE Composite index and Hong Kong's Hang Seng index ended in positive territory. Markets in Europe were trading on a mixed note. The US market ended mostly lower on Thursday.

"Weak global cues and rising geopolitical uncertainty, following inconclusive US-Iran talks weighed on investor confidence, triggering broad-based profit-booking across auto, FMCG and pharma stocks after recent advances. The absence of fresh domestic triggers further accelerated the downside momentum, especially during the final hour of trade," Hariprasad K, Research Analyst and Founder, Livelong Wealth, said.

Brent Crude, the global oil benchmark, jumped 1.26% to $71.64 per barrel.

Rupee falls 17 paise against $

MUMBAI, PTI: The rupee declined 17 paise to settle at 91.08 against the US dollar on Friday, weighed down by a massive outflow of foreign fund and a sharp rise in global crude prices amid geopolitical uncertainties.

At the interbank forex, the rupee opened at 90.91 and moved in a narrow range of 90.91-91.08, before settling at 91.08, down 17 paise from its previous close. Meanwhile, the dollar index was trading 0.05% lower at 97.74.

OpenAI raises $110 billion in record funding round

SAN FRANCISCO, AFP: OpenAI on Friday announced a massive $110 billion funding round valuing the ChatGPT maker at $730 billion, with SoftBank, Nvidia and Amazon each making multi-billion-dollar commitments as the artificial intelligence company races to meet surging global demand.

The investment round — one of the largest in Silicon Valley history — includes $30 billion from Japanese conglomerate SoftBank, $30 billion from chip giant Nvidia, and $50 billion from Amazon, with additional investors expected to join as the round progresses.

Alongside the capital injection, OpenAI announced strategic partnerships with both Amazon, the world's biggest cloud company through its AWS division, and Nvidia, whose AI chips remain unparalleled in their capacity for AI training.

"SoftBank, Nvidia, and Amazon are long-term partners who share our ambition to turn real scientific progress into systems that deliver meaningful benefits for people at global scale," OpenAI said.

The eye-watering level of funding reflects the soaring costs of computing power and lingering questions about whether OpenAI and other AI companies can generate sufficient revenue to cover those costs.

The Amazon investment will begin with $15 billion, followed by another $35 billion in the coming months when certain conditions are met, the companies said.

In the announcement, OpenAI cited a series of remarkable user metrics pointing to a breakneck pace of AI adoption.

ChatGPT now counts more than 900 million weekly active users and over 50 million paying consumer subscribers.

Fintech firm Block cuts 4,000 jobs due to AI

BENGALURU, DHNS: Twitter co-founder Jack Dorsey's fintech company Block has laid off 4,000 of its over 10,000 employees due to AI. Dorsey attributed this to the firm noticing intelligence tools enabling a new way of working.

In a post on X, he said, "Our business is strong. Gross profit continues to grow, we continue to serve more and more customers, and profitability is improving. But something has changed. We're already seeing that the intelligence tools we're creating and using, paired with smaller and flatter teams, are enabling a new way of working which fundamentally changes what it means to build and run a company."

PM asks India Inc to increase investment, innovation

NEW DELHI, PTI: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Friday urged the Indian industry to step up investment and innovation, saying the government has laid the groundwork through aggressive capital spending and by creating a conducive policy environment in successive Budgets, and that it is now time for the private sector to drive the next phase of globally competitive growth.

Narendra Modi

Addressing the first post-Budget webinar on 'Technology, Reforms and Finance for Viksit Bharat', Modi said public capital expenditure has risen from Rs 2 lakh crore 11 years ago, to over Rs 12 lakh crore in the Union Budget 2026-27, laying a strong foundation for expansion.

The higher allocation, he said, signals the private sector to invest with renewed vigour and leverage Budget announcements for 2026-27.

"India Inc should come forward with fresh investment and innovation. Financial institutions and analysts should help design practical solutions and improve market confidence," he said, calling for closer collaboration between government, industry, and knowledge partners to ensure reforms translate into tangible outcomes.

"We need greater participation in infrastructure and innovation in financial models... we must strengthen project sanction methodologies and improve the quality of appraisal," he said.

Over the past decade, the government has anchored India's growth strategy around record capital expenditure, sharply scaling up spending on highways, railways, ports, airports, digital infrastructure and energy networks to crowd in private investment and lift medium-term productivity. However, the private sector is yet to unleash the so-called animal spirit.

Modi said India's resilience over the past decade was driven by conviction-led reforms and sustained efforts to improve ease of doing business.

India has undertaken technology-led governance, strengthened institutions and even today the country is on the path of reforms.

"To sustain the reform express momentum, we not only need to focus on policy intent but also have to focus on delivery excellence. The evaluation of reforms should be on the basis its impact on the ground. We should extensively use AI, blockchain, data analytics to improve transparency, speed and accountability," he said.

He proposed the creation of a 'Reform Partnership Charter' to formalise collaboration among government, industry, financial institutions and academia, as part of the goal of achieving Viksit Bharat by 2047.

Germany's INDEX Group opens new tech centre in B'luru

BENGALURU, DHNS: German CNC turning machine manufacturer INDEX Group on Friday opened an integrated technology centre at the Aerospace Park near Kempegowda International Airport, aiming to tap growing demand in a country seeking to strengthen its manufacturing edge.

The facility houses offices for sales, technology, application, customer service and administration. It will also showcase CNC turning machines, allowing customers to bring components and drawings to develop manufacturing solutions. "After the founding of INDEX Machine Tools India Pvt Ltd in 2023, this modern, well-equipped branch has now been implemented to serve the growing demands of Indian industry better," the company said.

Through its portfolio of multi-spindle automatic lathes, universal turning machines, sliding-headstock automatic lathes, turn-mill centres and production turning machines, INDEX provides manufacturing solutions tailored to customer requirements.

"Particular strengths lie in application consulting, process optimisation, as well as comprehensive automation solutions and services — catering to companies in automotive and supplier industry, aerospace, mechanical engineering, electronics, hydraulics, fluid technology, semiconductors and medical devices," said Wilson Thomas, Managing Director of INDEX Machine Tools India Pvt Ltd.

Air India will have 'structural tailwinds' in FY27, says CCO

NEW DELHI, PTI: With "structural tailwinds", Air India will expand its international operations, optimise networks as well as tap premiumisation-led growth in the 2026-27 fiscal, a senior executive said on Friday.

Describing FY27 as a "conversion year", Air India CCO Nipun Aggarwal said the airline would have a credible product foundation to compete for premium share across key markets. The Tata Group-owned carrier is in the midst of an ambitious turnaround journey as part of which it is upgrading fleet, adding new aircraft and improving services.

Emphasising that product alone will not determine FY27 for Air India, Aggarwal said the differentiating factors will be reliability of the schedule, on-time performance and the way it handles disruptions.

FY27 is not about recovery and it is about acceleration, he said and added that the year would be about returning to the growth trajectory that has defined Air India since privatisation.

"In FY26, there was a surge in disruptions, misconnections, and flight changes which has dented the confidence of customers, especially corporate clients who measure airlines by such reliability and it is critical that we rebuild this confidence," he said in a message to staff on Friday.

Aggarwal said FY27 offers "structural tailwinds" with a fully retrofitted narrow-body fleet, accelerating wide-body upgrades, strengthened global partnerships and a sharpened commercial framework.

BUILDING ECOSYSTEM

Rs 2.23 L cr invested in India's EV space during 2020-2025: IEEFA

MRITYUNJAY BOSE
MUMBAI, DHNS

India's electric vehicle (EV) sector attracted a whopping Rs 2.23 lakh crore ($25.6 billion) in investment from 2020 to 2025, according to a report by the Institute for Energy Economics and Financial Analysis (IEEFA).

However, this is 18% of the estimated total investment needed in the sector by 2030.

By 2030, India targets EV sales comprising 30% of all private cars, 70% of commercial vehicles, 40% of buses, and 80% of two- and three-wheelers.

Achieving these goals requires substantial investment in EV manufacturing, charging infrastructure, and supportive ecosystems, the report said.

According to the IEEFA's report, capital flows in India's electric transport sector provides the first consolidated view of realised investments from 2020-25, identifying investment gaps, and outlining pathways to mobilise capital for the next phase of the nation's electric transport transition.

From an in-depth analysis of capital flows, the authors estimate Rs 2,23,119 crore was deployed across three core nodes of India's electric transport ecosystem from 2020 to 2025: Manufacturing capacity accounted for the bulk, followed by public subsidies and incentives, and EV-charging infrastructure.

"While this is significant capital mobilisation in just five years, it represents only about 18% of the Rs 12,50,000 crore required by 2030," said co-author Subham Shrivastava, Climate Finance Analyst at IEEFA.

"Mobilising the remaining Rs 10,26,881 crore ($117.82 billion) by 2030 will require systemic financing reforms," added Shrivastava.

A breakdown of the investments shows internal accruals accounted for the largest share of realised EV manufacturing investment (Rs 1,59,701 crore/$18.32 billion), followed by debt (Rs 36,738 crore/$4.22 billion) and equity (Rs 6,455 crore/$740 million).

"From 2020 to 2025, electric three-wheelers attracted the largest share (78%) of investments among vehicle segments, due to the segment's maturity and commercial-scale operations, alongside its fragmented OEM base. However, recent investment announcements in 2024 and 2025 reveal a pivot towards electric four-wheelers, driven by rising demand for electric cars," said co-author Saurabh Trivedi, Sustainable Finance Specialist at IEEFA.

Government subsidies under the Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of Hybrid and Electric Vehicles (FAME) scheme and other Union- and state-level policies catalysed adoption by disbursing Rs 18,251 crore ($2.09 billion) from FY2020-24. However, investment in public EV charging has not kept pace with other segments of the EV sector.

While public EV charging expanded significantly from 5,151 chargers in 2020, to 39,485 in 2025, India's ratio of chargers to EVs remains far-below global benchmarks.

Publicly-available estimates suggest that Rs 20,600 crore ($2.36 billion) of investment in charging infrastructure will be required for India to achieve its 2030 goals. Based on calculations of realised investment, the authors estimate that capital deployed from 2020 to 2025 accounted for only 9.6% of this amount, highlighting a significant investment gap.

"Investment in EV charging faces challenges due to limited investor interest, as public EV charging remains an unproven business model, with many charging stations reporting low utilisation rates and high initial costs," said co-author Charith Konda, Energy Specialist at IEEFA.

The Holi lesson

Varun's idea of fun during the holiday is to trouble the unsuspecting, but what goes around comes around. Suryakumari Dennison tells you about it

Varun was getting restless. There was still a week to go before Holi, and he was eager to start using his water gun. Festivities, he believed, should begin well before the festival. Of course, he could not go around squirting colours on everyone; his sister had scolded him for turning their cat crimson. There was nothing, though, to stop Varun from covertly hurling water balloons. His parents were sure to take a dim view of this exciting enterprise, but as Varun told himself smugly, he was hardly going to take them into confidence.

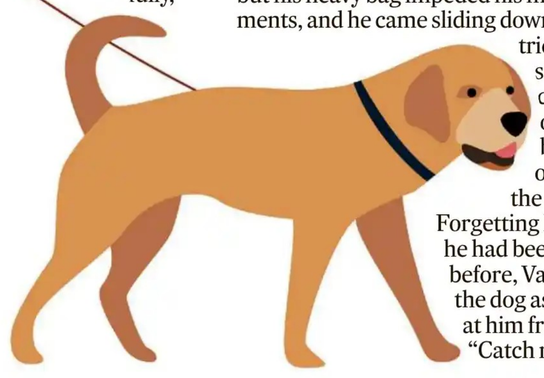
Bent on mischief, Varun roamed the neighbourhood with a bulging bag slung over his shoulder. Passersby probably saw him as an unseasonal Santa Claus, except that his sack was not stuffed with gifts but balloons filled to bursting. When Varun spied a likely victim, he immediately launched a balloon, careful to do so from behind a bush or building. Varun chuckled at the dismay of those he drenched whenever a missile found its mark.

Varun knew that what he was doing was wrong. He was aware that while people expected to get wet on Holi, and even enjoyed it, they did not find it amusing to be splashed with water when they were not prepared. Regrettably, this realisation did nothing to prevent Varun from continuing to entertain himself at the expense of others.

On the contrary, as he escaped unscathed after each exploit, he grew increasingly bold. While earlier he had stayed hidden, waiting for prospective prey, he gradually began to stalk pedestrians. Creeping up as close as he dared, he pelted them with balloons. This was not quite as risky as one might think, since Varun only picked on the elderly and the very young. He would not get in trouble as long as he stuck to them. If they sighted him, as they frequently did, they glared angrily but could not chase him.

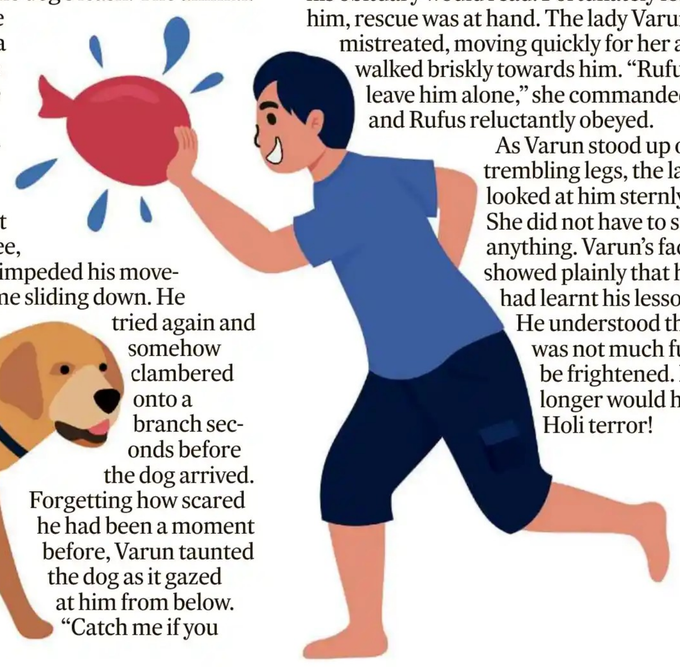
Safe from pursuit, Varun was in no hurry to leave the crime scene. Waving cheerfully, he would depart, yelling, "Happy Holi!"

One evening, Varun spotted a particularly tantalising target. An elegantly attired lady was out for a stroll with her dog. She was evidently old, but Varun did not pause to reflect that she deserved consideration. He followed her purposefully, but observing the beast beside her, thought it wise to keep his distance. Despite this setback, Varun had every intention of proceeding with his plan to startle the elderly woman. Stepping back several paces, he adopted his previous strategy of attacking stealthily, this time from behind a tree.



After days of causing Holi havoc, Varun had perfected his aim. As his water balloon struck the lady squarely on her back, she squealed in shock and distress. Varun's delight was short-lived. Taken by surprise, the lady let go of the dog's leash. The animal, taking this release from restraint as a mandate from his owner to hunt the offender, raced unerringly in Varun's direction.

Varun made a desperate attempt to climb up the tree, but his heavy bag impeded his movements, and he came sliding down. He tried again and somehow clambered onto a branch seconds before the dog arrived. Forgetting how scared he had been a moment before, Varun taunted the dog as it gazed at him from below. "Catch me if you can!" he jeered triumphantly.



Then, several things happened at once. The branch broke, and Varun tumbled out of the tree. His bag, with its supply of ammunition, crashed to the ground along with him. As the liquid projectiles burst, Varun was completely soaked. A balloon bath, however, was the least of his worries. He found himself lying helpless on the ground, face to face with a menacing Rottweiler.

Varun closed his eyes. So this was the end, he thought. "Devoured by a dog" was what his obituary would read. Fortunately for him, rescue was at hand. The lady Varun had mistreated, moving quickly for her age, walked briskly towards him. "Rufus, leave him alone," she commanded, and Rufus reluctantly obeyed.

As Varun stood up on trembling legs, the lady looked at him sternly. She did not have to say anything. Varun's face showed plainly that he had learnt his lesson. He understood that it was not much fun to be frightened. No longer would he be a Holi terror!

2 DIY crafts for festive fun

A few offbeat ways to celebrate Holi

Rainbow dot art

Materials needed

- White chart paper
- Poster colours (violet, blue, green, yellow, orange, red)
- Cotton buds
- Pencil and eraser
- White paint
- A small bowl of water

Method

- Using a pencil, lightly draw a large rainbow with seven curved lines. Leave space at both ends to draw fluffy clouds.
- Sketch two cloud shapes at the bottom ends of the rainbow.
- Dip a cotton bud into the first colour (violet). Gently press it onto the paper along the first arc of the rainbow to create neat dots.
- Continue dotting along the curve.
- Switch to a new cotton bud and colour for the next arc. Repeat until the rainbow is complete.
- Dip a clean cotton bud in white paint. Press small dots inside the cloud shapes to create a fluffy effect.
- Let it dry completely before displaying it.
- Optional step: You can write a Holi message above or below the rainbow.

Handprint poster

Materials needed

- White chart paper or card paper
- Poster colours (shades like red, orange, green, pink and yellow)
- A paint palette or a small plate
- A paintbrush
- Wet wipes or a bowl of water for cleaning hands

Method

- Using a brush, apply paint evenly on the child's palm and fingers. Make sure the entire hand is covered and the paint is not dripping.
- Press the painted hand firmly onto the chart or thick card paper. Lift it carefully to get a clear print. Wash your hands or clean them with a wet wipe.
- Repeat using different colours and place the prints slightly apart to create a colourful pattern.
- Let it dry for a few minutes.
- Once the handprints are dry, write 'Happy Holi' in bold letters at the centre or top of the page. You can also write a short line like 'Celebrate with colours!'. You can use black paint or a black marker for this.
- For a final touch, use a brush to add small colour splashes, dots or tiny hearts around the handprints to make the poster more festive. Allow the poster to dry completely before displaying it.

LET'S DEBATE!

Want to take part in the upcoming *Open Sesame* debate? Share your thoughts in a crisp 200-word essay on the topic 'Should schools teach life skills like cooking and budgeting?' Mail your works to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on March 19. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, school, and city. And send us a recent photograph.

Word of the Week

writhe

(verb)
— to twist or move the body, often because of severe pain or discomfort

Usage:
— The injured puppy was writhing in pain until the vet gave it medication.
— Sneha watched the earthworms writhing on the pavement.

Learnt life skills from you...

Open Sesame readers write letters to their best-loved video or mobile game

Dear Sneaky Sasquatch,

If I had a conversation with you, I would tell you that my aim in life is to save forests and conserve habitats for animals and birds. I too love challenges like you and am always ready to sport a new avatar for a new challenge.

I would ask you what your favourite disguise to escape the rangers was. I would also ask you what your favourite sport was: skiing, racing, or golfing. How do you manage to stay so positive in spite of being bullied by other animals? You are always kind-hearted and helpful, which makes you the hero of the forest.

Lastly, I would want to know the secret of your energy that helps you manage so many different tasks to earn money.

Best regards,
MOHAMMAD AYAAN, 11
Mysuru, Karnataka

Dear Word Search Puzzle,

I love playing with you. At first, it was difficult for me to find the words. However, you have helped me improve my vocabulary.

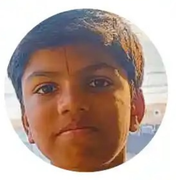
I would like to know how you hide the words so smartly in the grid. I also want to know how you choose the words and make the puzzle interesting and challenging.

If you had never existed, I would have missed out on learning new words. I like the challenges, and I always try to become better day by day.

Yours sincerely,
PRATHIKSHA K, 12
Bengaluru, Karnataka

Dear Subway Surfers,

If I could talk to you, I would ask how you manage to run forever without getting tired. Every time I play with you, you take me to colourful cities around the world, and I feel excited to beat my own high score. I would also like to ask if you know how much fun and energy you give to players with your fast-paced music and bright graphics. You have taught me to stay focused and think quickly. When I miss a jump or hit a barrier, I learn to try again and do better next time. You remind me that practice helps one improve. About me: I am someone who loves challenges and enjoys improving step by step. Sometimes I lose, but I never give up, just like the characters who keep running. Thank you for making my free time more exciting and full of adventure.



Sincerely,
RITUL CHINDAK, 14
Banahatti, Karnataka

Hey Genshin Impact!

I am so glad that I am finally able to talk to you. First of all, I want to thank you for making my free time a joyful one. I have really enjoyed playing with you because I love everything about you — be it the backstory behind your character or the beautiful panoramic views of Teyvat.

I am grateful to have learnt life values like humanity, consistency and the importance of friendship from you. I am eagerly awaiting your game update and am always ready to discover and explore a new piece of land.

With a determined heart to complete any quest.

Yours lovingly,
RISHIKA M, 15
Mangaluru, Karnataka

Dear Candy Crush,

If I could talk to you, I would love to know about your development story — what inspired the creators to build such an immersive world? How do you keep players engaged with new updates and challenges? What's the next big update or feature? Can I have a sneak peek?

About me: I am a Grade 8 student. I enjoy gaming and love strategy and solving games. It's intriguing to explore your world, complete quests, and connect with other players. Your game's community and gameplay mechanics keep me coming back for more.

Best regards,
CHITHRA, 13
Bengaluru, Karnataka

This Week:

Arctic animal

Open Sesame Quiz

Take the fun Open Sesame quiz, and stand a chance to win gift vouchers worth Rs 500. Open to children below 16 years.

Q1 February 27 is International Polar Bear Day. Who was the 18th-century Welsh naturalist who gave the polar bear (previously called 'white bear', 'ice bear' and 'sea bear') its current, common name?

Q2 The polar bear is the national animal of Greenland. On that country's coat of arms, which paw (right or left) is depicted raised, in accordance with Inuit beliefs?

Q3 Female polar bears enter maternity dens, which they dig under snow, earth or both. Which season of the year do they choose, to give birth to their cubs?

Scan the QR code
Or visit bit.ly/DHopensesame to participate in the quiz.

Q4 **Rhyme Time:** Two clues to which the answers rhyme with each other.
Clue A: Polar bears are pagophilic, and depend largely on sea __.
Clue B: Moral fault in someone's character.

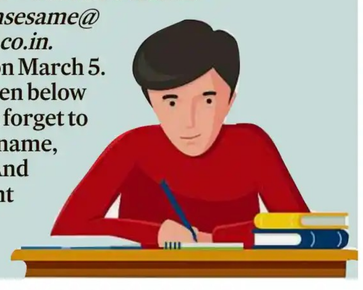
Q5 **Clue Cluster:** Which port town is known as the 'Polar Bear Capital of the World'?
Use these clues.
a) Manitoba b) Hudson Bay c) Migration d) Beluga

WINNER'S NAMES: Lasya (14), Hosapete; Sharanya Natakar (13), Pavagada; Alwin (16), Bengaluru.
ANSWERS TO LAST WEEK'S QUIZ: A1) Keratin, A2) Chinese, A3) Nandankanan, A4) Ball/Fall, A5 Jackie Chan.

POETS IN THE MAKING

Want to see your poetry in print?

Send in poems on the topic 'If I had wings...' to *Open Sesame*. You may be featured in an upcoming edition. Mail your work — not more than 12 lines — to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Entries close on March 5. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph.



ART CORNER

Love painting?

Want to showcase your flair for colours? Send your paintings on the theme 'Welcome spring' to *Open Sesame* and stand a chance to get featured in an upcoming edition. Mail photographs of your work to *opensesame@deccanherald.co.in*. Open to children below 16 years. Don't forget to mention your name, age, and city. And send us a recent photograph of yourself. Entries close on March 12.

Romancing LATIN DANCE

Lourd Vijay graduated from copying steps from video tapes to studying under a diva in Canada. In the '90s, he brought forms like salsa and bachata to Bengaluru, and mentored a legion of dancers. Drishti Rakhra charts his fascinating 30-year journey

Lourd Vijay is currently working on a project that will showcase the work of Karnataka folk artistes. DH PHOTOS/PUSHKAR V

Located on the fifth floor of a business park in Bengaluru, Lourd Vijay Dance Studio (LVDS) is bright and open. Vijay smiles as we settle down in a corner of his studio."My mother says that my first time on stage was when I was 3," he begins.

One wall is lined with a bench painted white and covered in grey faux leather. The opposite wall is lined with mirrors, so the studio looks like it goes on and on; the brown maple flooring making it look bigger still. High-rise buildings, interspersed with healthy-looking trees, peep out. It is quiet here.

Vijay comes to his studio in spotless white — trousers, a lapel shirt, and sports shoes. He teaches here only once a week, now recovering from his second kidney transplant.

"Another four months," he says, when I tell him that I can't wait to see him dance. He moves smoothly for the *DH* photojournalist, looking as natural as he does while sitting back in his chair — always at ease, always relaxed.

A new way to move

Vijay started out in 1997, almost by accident. Anjali Sareen, who now runs a pilates studio in Bengaluru, invited him to conduct a workshop, which set in motion the making of a dance instructor. The first workshop was informal and led to more. Vijay's parents were big fans of ABBA and disco music, it was what he grew up listening to. His father worked in the Indian army, so Vijay spent his childhood in Bengaluru, Hyderabad, and Udhampur. The family finally settled down in Bengaluru. When his father was posted in Udhampur, Kashmir, Vijay had access to a lot of Pakistani television, "and most Pakistani television had American content."

That's where he came across Michael Jackson for the first time. Shortly after, he stumbled on a film that changed his life — 'Dirty Dancing'. He has watched the film at least 1,000 times, he confesses.

Vijay's formative years and India's economic liberalisation were on the same timeline. "I watched people like Jean-Claude Van Damme and Jackie Chan move, and I wanted to imitate them," he recalls. Having watched them doing splits, he wanted to attempt it himself. He wasn't then thinking as much of dance as of movement. In the process, his body became flexible.

In the Bengaluru he grew up in, he was often surrounded by Anglo-Indian boys. He remembers a Christmas ball one year, where he was awed by the smoothness with which the boys danced with the girls. When he asked them to teach him, they shrugged him off. "We know it just like that," they said. Finally, one of his friends, Marie Anne D'Cruz, decided to teach him, and rhythm entered his frame.

Later, when he was in St Joseph's College of Arts and Science, he joined the Western dance team. Western dance then was a mix of everything he now recognises as forms that require long years of practice. At the time, "it was just a hotchpotch of different moves." You had jive, mambo, salsa, bachata — forms with unique rhythms but usually condensed into one broad category of 'Latin American'. "We were dancing salsa to mambo, you know. All the beats were off," he says.

Los Angeles team

In 1998, a popular spirits company launched a Latin music CD. It had music from Brazil, Cuba, and Mexico, all 'commercial' songs. The company then reached out to Vijay and initiated a collaboration that would fast-track his life-long tryst with dance. The group was asked to help promote the brand.

At the launch of a new product, the young team of dancers was introduced to Salsa Brava, a professional salsa group from Los Angeles. This was the first time Vijay saw what it meant to be a professional salsa dancer. Until then, his encounters with the form were local and interpretative — when he saw a step he liked in a film, he would pause, rewind, and play it again in slow motion. This careful repetition is what had trained him.

The members of Salsa Brava were fascinated by his skills. To see an Indian so quick at picking up new dance forms was a treat, and they took him in immediately. It was with this group that he got a chance to visit Toronto, where he met someone who would become a long-term mentor: Nicole D'Silva, a Bolivian dancer. For a trip that was supposed to be only a week long, he stayed for four weeks.

"She used to wonder who this guy was, coming in every day for classes and staying the entire evening," he says. When she saw him take extra interest, she invested more time in him. That is when he learned salsa, ballet, even tap dancing.

> "Dancing is a selfish art form, but people forget that they don't need to be selfish outside of the performance.
>
> **LOURD VIJAY**

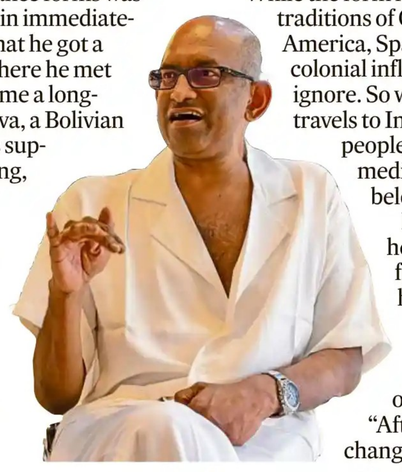
While he was in Canada, he stayed with a couple that his parents knew through the church community in Bengaluru. They lived all the way in Mississauga, so Vijay would make the 40 km journey to Toronto every day. First the train, then the bus, and then a long walk to Soles Studio. But he didn't stop there. Toronto was full of dance studios, and he went to as many as he could.

When he returned to Bengaluru, things began moving quickly. Yana Lewis opened the Lewis Foundation of Classical Ballet and he naturally fell into step. He went there ever so often, dancing in his time off. It was his passion project. Full time, he owned a bottled water company that was a franchisee. His trajectory took him to many places — he started out as a student of environmental science, found dance, did his MBA and got a job, before finally leaving everything behind to stay with dance.

Creating spaces

"We are a dancing country. We dance at birth, we dance at death," he says. LVDS began as an effort not to bring a new form of dance to Bengalureans, but to create more spaces for people to practise dance.

Latin American dance forms chart histories of colonisation across the globe. While the form most often refers to traditions of Central and Southern America, Spanish and Portuguese colonial influences are hard to ignore. So when a dance like this travels to India not through people but through popular media, who is to say who it belongs to?



In the 25+ years since he started, he has made friends for life. One of his best buddies met her husband through him. Some of his current students are children of his earliest students.

"After 2008, things began changing," he says. The IT boom brought in a crowd different from the one he was used to. The "old Bangalore" he describes does not exist anymore.

"Earlier, we used to get people who wanted to learn dance as a hobby," he says, "But now we often have men who come to meet girls." Some stay long enough to develop a passion for the art, but many don't end up learning.

His first studio was in a little coffee shop on Lavelle Road; it then moved to a pub at Shoolay Circle. The next stop was what he calls the 'Wimpy's building' on Brigade Road, after which he moved to a restobar on Palace Cross Road. The current location is Cunningham Road.

He describes what it was like to host classes in a pub: "We used to have only Hotmail then, so we couldn't even tell people if a class was cancelled. Orkut and all came much later."

The pub often held events, so classes would often get disrupted. He stayed there for only a year. At the Wimpy's building, a popular burger joint, hordes of people came, many just to eat chaat at the famous stall just outside. He grins as he remembers those days: "The classes would be packed!"

Latin American dance is a social art form. For a man to ask a woman to dance, he has to be confident. "You must have courage to be a dancer," he says. "You might get rejected once, but you have to try again."

Vijay hosts socials for all his students at various venues, each meant for a different part of the city. Every few months, he also organises what he calls a 'groove kitchen' — an experience that brings together food and dance, in collaboration with a chef, usually a friend. The chef takes care of the food, Vijay takes care of the dance.

As a part of these efforts, he has found himself visiting Brazil and Cuba in the last few years, and is in the process of planning a Thailand trip for the Latin Bangkok Fiesta.

The scene has changed, of course. Bengaluru is packed with Latin dance studios (many of them run by his students, he tells me). "Dancing is a selfish art form," he says, but people forget that they don't need to be selfish outside of the performance. He describes organising the Goa Salsa Festival, a standard three-day festival, but one that invited innumerable salsa dancers from across the world to conduct workshops. "We used to get thousands of people, but most festivals now only aim for 200-300 people," he says.

Nicole D'Silva, his first mentor, is an expert in body dynamics and body conditioning. Vijay has followed in her footsteps. This is one of the many things that sets him apart from other instructors.

His documentary on kidney transplants, 'Anicca', was released three years ago, and can be seen on YouTube. He recalls that he barely drank any water when he was young. "Maybe that led to problems with my kidneys," he says. From 2013-16, he was on dialysis. The cadaveric kidney, which usually needs replacement after a certain number of years, needed to be replaced in 2025.

With folk dancers

Lourd is working on three projects currently. He is attempting to produce a Broadway-level show he calls 'Dance Alchemy' that will showcase the work of Karnataka's folk artistes.

He cites the meagre compensation most artistes usually receive: "I want to create a project that will really help improve their lives." When he had to go in for his second kidney transplant, a friend set up a crowdfund to finance the treatment. With the amount of money people donated, he felt it was simply his duty to pay it forward and do something similar for artists and performers who needed patronage.

He is also working towards integrating dance in school education, so that young children are introduced to Latin dance forms. Instead of the fast-paced three-month course people opt for, he has designed a curriculum that slows down the learning process to make it easier for children. The final project is to build India's own version of the Brooklyn Conservatory of Music, an institution in the United States that integrates community building and music.

When he was making the documentary on kidney transplants, he organised an awareness drive from Bengaluru to Chennai. "Via Ladakh," he says, with a cheeky smile. He hosted talks, and encouraged crowdfunding and spread transplant awareness. Eventually he stopped and stepped back to focus on his own health and practice.

His body is still recuperating. But the plans are endless. His newest obsession is West Coast swing, a descendent of another dance form called Lindy Hop, that originated in Harlem, New York, in the 1920s. For Vijay, the dance never stops.

Like this story?
Email: dhonsat@deccanherald.co.in

MUSICANA

Be consistent: Karnataka singer who made it to Indian Idol Top 10

Bengaluru's Shreenidhi G Shastry talks to Barkha Kumari about expanding his repertoire and his multiple stints with reality TV

Shreenidhi G Shastry from Bengaluru has participated in four music reality shows and is currently a Top 10 contestant on Season 16 of 'Indian Idol'. The 23-year-old views reality TV as one of the shortest ways to reach a wide audience. "It's not just about winning or losing. I want to reach as many people as possible through my music," says Shastry, who is the 2020 winner of 'Sa Re Ga Ma Pa Kannada'.

Shastry's tryst with the stage began when he was seven or eight. "I sang 'Chandan hai is desh ki maati' at the Independence Day celebrations in our neighbourhood. People in my community were thrilled and told me I must continue singing," he recalls. He keeps returning to the stage for the audience's applause, his biggest inspiration. "The first 60 to 90 seconds on stage feel like hell. I am full of anxiety. But once the audience starts whistling or cheering, I feel at ease," says Shastry, best known for singing songs of S P Balasubrahmanyam.

A full-time musician, Shastry is trained in the Karnatik classical tradition and is also known for his guitar work. He has performed internationally. He also teaches, composes, and performs film songs with his four-member band at weddings, parties and restaurants.

He credits his parents for introducing him to music. "They used to sing Kannada songs while doing household chores. When they heard me repeat the songs, they felt I had potential," he says. He was still a toddler at the time. "Since I was so young, no music school would admit me. So my mother enrolled herself as a student and took me along. I would sit on her lap during lessons and learn passively. By the time I began formal training at four-and-a-half years of age, I already knew a lot," he recalls.

Despite his Karnatik grounding, Shastry listens to a range of genres. His playlist spans Hindustani stalwarts such as Pt Jasraj and Pt Bhimsen Joshi, Marathi abhangs, Kannada folk and film music, as well as Bollywood dance tracks. "You learn something from every genre," he says.

The current reality show, too, has pushed him to expand his repertoire beyond S P B songs. Here, he attempted Kishore Kumar songs, and says that mastering Anu Malik's 'Julie Julie' and Hariharan's 'Nahin saamne tu' required a lot of practice.

Only a handful of reality show contestants go on to build lasting careers, and Shastry feels lucky that, six years after winning a reality show, people still come up to him for selfies. He believes along with hard work and a never-give-up attitude, longevity depends on consistently delivering strong performances during the show.

Shreenidhi G Shastry is known for singing songs of S P Balasubrahmanyam.

With 'Blossoms Shanghai', the master moves from cinema to web, even as he continues to explore his themes of love and longing, writes Nikhil Waiker

The lingering art of Wong Kar-wai

Towards the end of Wong Kar-wai's beloved classic 'Happy Together', an overwhelmed Lai holds on to a tape recorder as he breaks down. The background crowd and diegetic noise stay apathetic to his plight.

In the fan favourite 'In the Mood for Love', Mr Chow and Mrs Chen, victims of adultery and neighbours who have discovered each other's company, recreate scenes of their spouses falling in love. The camera follows this intimacy without flinching, without judgement, and without emotion. They eventually fall in love in the Hong Kong society of the 1960s, where such a relationship is sure to face hostility.

Hopeless romance, lost love, new love soothing old wounds, loneliness in a vibrant city are the characteristics of a Wong Kar-wai film.

His characters form a loose cinematic universe, all seemingly driven by a process of searching. In 'Happy Together', Lai searches for a calming stability in his relationship, in 'In the Mood for Love', Chow and Chen search for answers as victims of infidelity, and in 'Chunking Express', Faye and the police seek love in a desperate world.

Hong Kong was under British rule for over a century. Since its return to China, it is caught between the old and the new, and between maintaining its autonomy and integrating with mainland China. Wong Kar-wai and his contemporaries, who ushered in a new wave of filmmaking in Hong Kong, live away from China's overly dramatised rom-coms and martial arts films

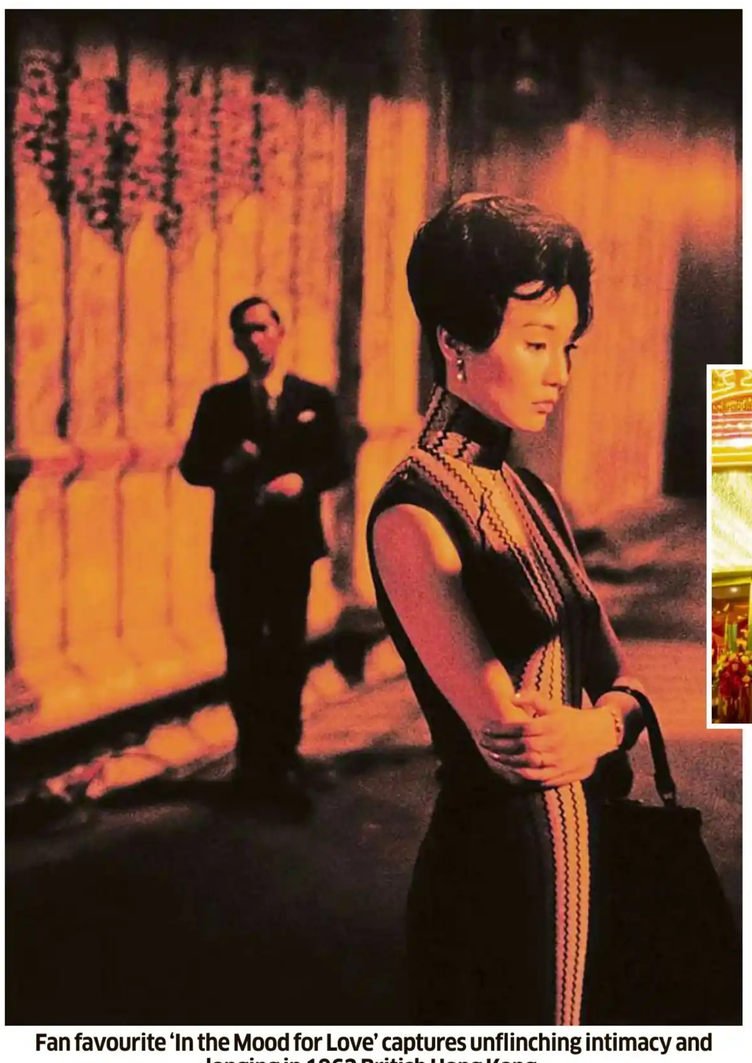
Born in Shanghai in 1958, Wong Kar-wai's family moved to Hong Kong when he was five — a dislocation that would subtly introduce 'rootlessness', 'longing' and 'nostalgia' in his later work.

His first film 'As Tears Go By' (1988), a crime drama, showed flashes of his cinematic maturity and his emerging style. And by 'Days of Being Wild' (1990), his cinematic language had begun to find its vocabulary. Chaos and the organic are the two dictums that drive his style.

Wong Kar-wai

Beginning his long time collaboration with cinematographer Christopher Doyle, 'Days of Being Wild' became the first of an informal trilogy. It is followed by 'In The Mood for Love' and '2046'.

Wong Kar-wai famously talks about films that leave an "aftertaste". These are not designed to present a story, but rather to document the history of emotions.



Fan favourite 'In the Mood for Love' captures unflinching intimacy and longing in 1962 British Hong Kong.

The characters develop through a despairing search for affection in a dreary city.

In the same spirit, and in a wildly monumental undertaking, Wong Kar-wai has launched a 30-episode TV series 'Blossoms Shanghai', released partly on the streaming platform Mubi. It traverses through the tumult of '90s Shanghai.

He unravels the personal journey of Ah Bao who rises up the ranks in the stock market jungle. The chaotic beginning might feel uncoupled from the Wong Kar-wai we know and love. But, by the 10th episode, his new collaboration with Peter Pau and screenwriter Qin Wen feels like a beautiful accident. The series begins to fall into place, and the pacing and the tone feel inherently 'Wong' as the production yields a luxurious reconstruction of '90s Shanghai.

Wong Kar-wai's films are united by a set of deep, philosophical preoccupations. Time may be his most persistent theme — not simply as a tool for linear progression, but as a series of moments to be captured, lost, and desperately revisited.

In 'Days of Being Wild', Yuddy tells a woman, "You will remember me for one minute. You will remember that you knew me for that one minute," encapsulating both the definitiveness and the timelessness of the encounter. This exploration continues in the trilogy, where characters are haunted by the past and yearn for moments that only live as nostalgia. This obsession with the past leads to a pervasive sense of isolation from the current social landscape. Despite being set in densely populated cities like Hong Kong, Wong Kar-wai's films are populated by lonely souls who struggle to connect.

Music is the soul of his films. In a conversation with Martin Scorsese, he explained that his soundtracks are eclectic and unforgettable, often borrowed from other films (Seijun Suzuki's Yumeji's theme in 'In the Mood for Love'). They are carefully curated to create an immediate emotional response.

The recurring, languid violin phrase of Shigeru Umebayashi's 'Yumeji's Theme' perfectly captures the characters' unspoken longing and their vacuous emptiness in 'In the Mood for Love'. The mandopop and the cantopop in 'Blossoms Shanghai', tied to the rapidity of the series, capture not just the characters, but also the environment.

Ultimately, the power of a Wong Kar-wai film lies in its resistance to easy interpretation. As Sofia Coppola said, "After watching a Wong Kar-wai film, you get the feeling you don't quite know what you have watched but you do know it is something you haven't seen before." He doesn't offer happy endings or clear-cut conclusions, but rather real, messy moments that reflect the beautiful uncertainties of life.

(The author runs The Parallel Cinema Club based in Bengaluru and Hyderabad)

'Blossoms Shanghai is set in the frenetic world of Ah Bao (Hu Ge), a self-made millionaire navigating the cutthroat business landscape of early 90s Shanghai.
CREDIT: CRITERION CHANNEL

'Blossoms Shanghai' review: Another timely masterpiece from Wong Kar-wai
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MOVIE R | E | V | I | E | W | S

A visual masterpiece

JAGADISH ANGADI

Ganesh Hegde's debut features 'Neeli Hakki' unfolds through the lens of 10-year-old Sidda (Aman), who lives with his parents in a remote, forest-fringed village in Uttara Kannada. His father Maasti (Gopal Deshpande) is a farmer and an alcoholic. And his mother Ganapi (Nidhi Hegde) struggles to keep the family afloat.

Driven by unavoidable hardship, the family migrates to the city in search of work, but is unable to navigate the harsh urban system. Amid this growing despair, Sidda returns to his village and reconnects with his roots.

What sets 'Neeli Hakki' apart is its reflection on the absurdity and futility of contemporary society. It portrays a world caught at crossroads, uncertain whether to let go of the past or fully embrace the present. Hegde weaves together themes of unity, harmony with nature, and the paralysing effects of poverty which often strip people of courage and choice.

'Neeli Hakki', which went to many international film festivals, explores humanity's innate bond with nature. It reminds us that nature exists independently, untouched by human greed. Beneath its quiet surface lies a deeper meditation on humankind's constant struggle for freedom and its enduring search for peace and contentment.

He communicates through evocative symbols and metaphors: a rabbit, a puppy, the act of fishing, each representing survival, vulnerability, and the fragile connection between humans and their environment. These layered visuals offer insights into life, displacement, resilience, belonging, and survival.

Aman plays 10-year-old Sidda.

★★★★½

Neeli Hakki
Kannada (Sun NXT)
Director: Ganesh Hegde
Cast: Gopalkrishna Deshpande, Aman S Karkera, Nidhi Hegde

The film is a visual masterpiece with an effective sound design that creates an immersive experience.

As Sidda, Aman delivers a moving performance that forms the emotional core of the film. Nidhi lends emotional strength and authenticity to the role of the struggling mother. Deshpande embodies the flawed yet vulnerable father with remarkable nuance.

A touch of grey to #MeToo

RASHMI VASUDEVA

Inversion as a cinematic device rarely disappoints, unless it is seriously mishandled. In Netflix's new film 'Accused', directed by Anubhuti Kashyap, it becomes the movie's most compelling element.

A highly successful doctor, poised to become a dean, is accused of sexual misconduct. That, in itself, is not new, but the doctor is a woman and a lesbian. In today's charged climate of instant public judgement and gendered power equations, not to mention the seemingly endless revelations from the Epstein files, a plotline that dares to complicate the #MeToo narrative and locate it in the grey space between black and white (arguably its rightful place) is impressive. That said, the film is not without flaws.

Dr Geetika Sen (Konkona Sen Sharma) is neither a villain nor a martyr. She is unemotional, almost cold, and does not break down despite the ugliness surrounding her. She is also prickly and, as one of her juniors observes, "creates an atmosphere of criticism". The film appears to deliberately position her in this ambiguous space, suspended between the viewer's sympathy and suspicion. This refusal to conform to neat behaviour-

Konkona Sen Sharma is a doctor in the film.

★★★½☆

Accused
Hindi (Netflix)
Director: Anubhuti Kashyap
Cast: Konkana Sen Sharma, Pratibha Ranta, Sukant Goel

al boxes is the film's greatest strength, rendered with restraint by Konkona, who makes Sen appear both vulnerable and opaque.

Her relationship with her partner, Meera (Pratibha Ranta), is portrayed with refreshing normalcy. Where the film truly succeeds is in capturing the public spectacle of morality, where verdicts are preceded by instant exile, humiliation, and social media outrage. However, the frustratingly cautious and predictable climax and a somewhat preachy epilogue dilute its impact, despite Konkana's valiant efforts to keep the dialogues organic.

Before Hamlet, there was heartbreak

AMOGH RAVINDRA

'Hamnet' is not interested in polishing the statue of William Shakespeare. It would rather sit in the hallway outside, listening to the floorboards creak. Directed by Chloé Zhao, this is a story about the quiet before the famous words show up. No grand speeches. No dramatic pointing at the sky. Just love, loss, and the kind of silence that feels so thick you could trip over it.

The film opens in gentle calm: children in fields, a warm marriage, a home that feels real. Shakespeare, played by Paul Mescal, drifts between family and ambition, present but slightly distant. Agnes, played by Jessie Buckley, is the steady heart of it all.

Then her kid Hamnet dies, suddenly and without fuss. After that, the story shrinks inward. Rooms grow quieter, conversations shorter. Grief moves in and stays. There is a small hint that this pain might turn into art one day, but the film keeps that idea quiet and in the background.

Mescal internalises the sorrow, folding into himself. Buckley lets it move through her in waves, raw and unfiltered. She anchors the film with fierce vulnerability. Visually, Zhao keeps things restrained — think natural light, muted tones, lingering frames. The pacing is deliberate and unhurried. Silence does much of the storytelling. It is immersive, though at times emotionally relentless. This is not a traditional biopic. It is a quiet study of absence. Heavy and intimate, it is not for everyone, but for those who sit with its silence — it lingers long after it ends.

Jessie Buckley and Paul Mescal in 'Hamnet'.

★★★☆☆

Hamnet
English (Theatres)
Director: Chloé Zhao
Cast: Jessie Buckley, Paul Mescal, Emily Watson, Joe Alwyn

Movie on hair mafia tangled in tropes

PRANATI A S

In a tonsuring centre run by a brutal Kutty Babji in a small village near Mysuru, human hair is precious. Babji makes sure to secure the tender every year and employs barbers belonging to the oppressed caste for meagre wages. If someone is suspected of 'stealing' hair, they are stripped naked and insulted. When asked for higher wages, they are killed. Babji is the kind who will go to any extent to procure hair, even dig open a grave.

Enter Ashoka, with dreams of becoming a revenue officer. When he learns about the plight of his community, he tears (quite literally and stylishly) those dreams and wages a war against Babji.

Sampath Maitreya plays Kutty Babji, who calls himself a 'hair merchant' and is supposedly a terrifying mafia don. But his weird accent and the scraggly thicket on his face makes him more laughable than menacing. For a movie which is about hair, both the hero and the villain sport 'hair' in the most creative ways possible. But it is not just Sampath's character but most of the characters in the film feel unreal, and the narrative, superficial. And the dialogues? Let's not even go there!

For a film aimed at discussing caste, oppression and dissent, too much time is wasted on a love story, which is not even inter-caste, making the film one note and single layered, weighed down by masala movie tropes. And, what is with the excessive display of meat at the villain's den?

'The Rise of Ashoka' makes no social commentary and is like any other film using the rich vs poor (class) or a good vs evil conflict for the plot.

Sampath Maitreya plays an evil Kutty Babji.

★½☆☆☆

The Rise of Ashoka
Kannada (Theatres)
Director: Vinod V Dhondale
Cast: Sathish Ninasam, Sampath Maithreya, Sapthami Gowda, B Suresh

'Antagonist's story should be more compelling than hero's'

Writer-director Deviprasad Shetty's 'Second Case of Seetharam', now showing, is a gritty cop drama. He tells Pranati A S why he keeps coming back to the genre

Deviprasad Shetty's third film 'Second Case of Seetharam', now in theatres, opened to great response last week.

It is the Kannada filmmaker's third film and all three are cop dramas, the previous two being 'Seetharam Benoy: Case No 18' and 'Case of Kondana'.

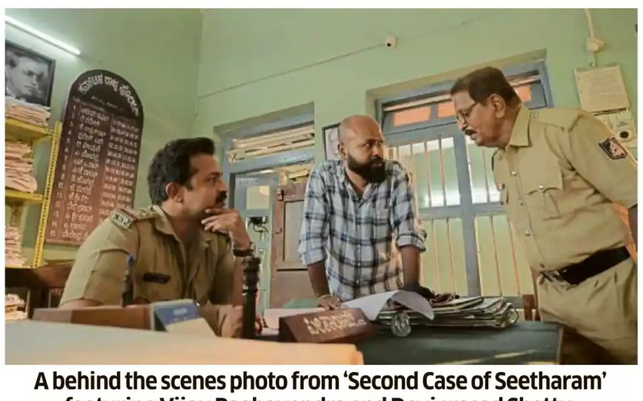
Excerpts from an interview:

Why are you so keen on exploring police life?
It just happened. There is no real-life inspiration behind it. In fact, I had never written a cop drama before. It came purely out of convenience. We made 'Seetharam Benoy: Case No 18' during the Covid-19 pandemic. We produced it ourselves and had budget constraints. We could not afford elaborate sets. We found a school and converted it into a police station. We then set up a village, a small town, and so on.

Deviprasad Shetty

The desire to make a film was the inspiration behind the three cop dramas.

After watching the first film on the big screen, I felt I could have done better. In an attempt to do that, I made 'Case of Kondana' and 'Second Case of Seetharam'. I stuck to the same genre, as switching would have meant starting from scratch and relearning everything.



A behind the scenes photo from 'Second Case of Seetharam' featuring Vijay Raghavendra and Deviprasad Shetty.

Do you plan to create a franchise?
It can be done but there are no such plans. Both films stand independently.

How did you bring so many elements together in 'Second Case of Seetharam'?
When we shot 'Case of Kondana' in Bengaluru, there were many challenges. So we decided to set the next film against a village backdrop. It was again a cop movie with Vijay Raghavendra, set in a village. It did not make sense to introduce new characters and a completely different world, so we chose to build it as an extension of 'Case No 18'.

I brought in the sister character for emotional depth. A review of 'Kondana' said that it was an open crime narrative, where the killer is revealed right at the beginning. I took that feedback seriously, along with other criticism of both films and worked on addressing those issues to make the script more layered and multi-dimensional.

In most movies where the killer is a psychopath, the music is typically dark. I wanted to break away from that convention. That's when I thought of using Karnatik music.

Your villain is an anti-hero...
It was a subconscious decision. If you look at 'Case No 18' as well, the villain is essentially an anti-hero who seeks revenge against the cops because of the injustices he suffered. It's the same in 'Kondana'.

I don't see the point in showing a villain as someone who is simply caught, or killed in a climax fight. Even a villain has his side of the story, and that story is important. I believe a story is driven by the antagonist, and they have to be more compelling than the protagonist.

Your thoughts on super cops in movies.
That's the concept of commercial cinema. It has its own writing and execution styles. Both kinds of cinema are essential. I have enjoyed watching 'Singham' and 'Kempegowda'. They are massy and entertaining.

You described making a film in Bengaluru as challenging.
Yes, especially when there are serious budget constraints. There are too many permissions required. For example, if we want to suddenly move to a new location, it cannot be done immediately. We have to apply for permissions 15 days in advance, often with associated fees. Coordinating location availability, and actors' schedules, especially if two or three big stars are involved, can be more complicated than actually making a film. Bengaluru is a big city and it comes with its logistical challenges.

And your next?
I'm writing another cop drama. I tried other ideas but they were not exciting enough. The genre is more favourable for me at the moment, especially because I don't have the luxury of time to brood on other subjects. It also allows me to build on my past films, and learn from previous mistakes.

IN BRIEF

MSRIT B, DSCE post wins

▸ Himanshoo's half-century (72 off 66) coupled with Vikas (3/27) and Adhok's (3/26) three-wicket hauls propelled MSRIT B to a three-wicket win over JSSATE in the 24th Dr. MS Ramaiah Memorial State Level Inter-Engineering Colleges' cricket tournament at the SMVIT Ground in Bengaluru on Friday, reports DHNS.

Brief scores: JSSATE: 148/9 in 28 overs (Chethan 44; Vikas 3-27, Adhok 3-26) lt to MSRIT B: 152/7 in 27.5 overs (Himanshoo 72, Guru 31, Samarth 28; Satvik 4-25, Chethan 3-20, Aniketh 2-18).
BMSCE: 143 all out in 25.4 overs (Ankith 61; Mohith 3-42, Harsheel 3-30) lt to DSCE: 145/3 in 24.5 overs (Rohith V 55, Gourav 43; Manish N 2-20).

Rough start for Indian golfers

▸ It was a rough opening day for the Indians as Hitaashee Bakshi emerged the best among them at tied-48th with a card of 73 in the Ford Women's NSW Open on the Ladies European Tour, reports PTI from Wollongong, Australia.

Ex-state hockey player no more

BENGALURU, DHNS: Former Karnataka hockey player S Mangalaraj passed away on Thursday following a brief illness, the Karnataka State Hockey Association (KSHA) said in a statement on Friday. He was 84.

S Mangalaraj

Mangalaraj, the elder brother of KSHA vice-president S Nicholas, represented Bangalore Gavipuram Hockey Club in the KSHA League Championship and later played for HAL Bengaluru after securing employment under the sports quota. A forward, he represented the state in several events during the 1960s.

He also played football for Muslims Sports Club and cricket for Colts Club. After retirement, he coached HAL and the state women's hockey team.

Dhanush, Anani claim titles

BENGALURU, DHNS: Karnataka's Dhanush SM and Anani Gopireddy bagged the boys' and girls' singles titles respectively at the MAT–AITA U-14 Talent Series tennis tournament at the KSLTA courts here on Friday.

In the boys' singles final, third-seeded Dhanush scored a facile 6-1, 6-2 victory over the second seed Samvrath while Anani Gopireddy defeated Nishka Mallik 6-3, 3-6, 6-3 in a well-contested girls' title clash.

Results: Singles finals (all Karnataka): Boys: Dhanush SM bt Samvrath DS 6-1, 6-2.
Girls: Anani Gopireddy bt Nishka Mallik 6-3, 3-6, 6-3.

◆ ON TV ◆

CRICKET

T20 WC: Sri Lanka vs Pakistan **(7 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

Ranji Trophy Final: K'taka vs J&K **(day 5, 9:30 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Khel**, **JioHotstar**.

Women's One-Day Trophy Final: Delhi vs Railways **(9 am)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2**, **JioHotstar**.

FOOTBALL

EPL: Bournemouth vs Sunderland **(6 pm)**, Liverpool vs West Ham, Burnley vs Brentford, Newcastle United vs Everton **(8:30 pm)**, Leeds vs Man City **(11 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Network**, **JioHotstar**.

La Liga: Rayo vs Athletic Club **(6:30 pm)**, Barcelona vs Villareal **(8:45 pm)**, Real Oviedo vs Atletico **(1:30 am, Saturday)**. **LIVE** on **FanCode.**

ISL: Kerala Blasters FC vs Inter Kashi FC **(5 pm)**, Mohammedan vs Mohun Bagan **(7:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Sony Sports Ten 2**, **FanCode**.

BADMINTON

German Open: Semifinals **(4:30 pm)**. **LIVE** on **Star Sports Select 2**, **JioHotstar**.

CRICKET RANJI TROPHY FINAL

J&K shut the door on Karnataka

Visitors all but assured of first title after a huge 477-run lead

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

After their small, but significant, steps forward on the first three days, Jammu and Kashmir took a massive stride towards history on the fourth day of the Ranji Trophy final against Karnataka at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here on Friday.

Having been bowled out cheaply for 293 in 93.3 overs on a good batting wicket, Karnataka's bowling ran out of steam in the afternoon heat and were left staring at a mammoth 477-run lead as their hopes of keeping the final alive diminished gradually in front of their home fans.

When stumps were drawn for the day, the visitors were 186/4 in 57 overs with Qamran Iqbal (94 n.o.) and Sahil Lotra (16 n.o.) enjoying their time in the middle with one hand on their maiden silverware.

The fans in the stadium lived every ball towards the end of play as the tempers between the two sides flared up. There was quite a bit of chatter between Vyshak Vijaykumar (1/30) and Iqbal before umpire Rohan Pandit intervened to calm the situation down.

In contrast to the first innings, Karnataka showed better discipline that was required on this wicket as Prasidh Krishna (2/42) got the first breakthrough with a delivery that held its line as Yawer Hassan's (1) thick inside-edge crashed onto his stumps.

Vyshak, who was battling bad luck after bowling well in the first innings, found something that went his way when Shubham Pundir (4) poked at a delivery that was going down leg.

Just when it seemed like the game had sprung to life with J&K at 11/2, the Karnataka optimism withered as Iqbal and Paras Dogra (16) stitched a 103-ball 61-run stand to calm some of the jitters in the visiting dressing room.

Prasidh then provided another breakthrough when he angled in a length ball on off stump, inducing a mistake from Dogra, who played the wrong line and was bowled.

Karnataka thought they had Abdul Samad (32) early, but his review for lbw confirmed he had edged the ball.

Close call

After surviving a close call, Samad, together with Iqbal, shared a stand of 73 runs off 142 balls, again to frustrate Karnataka. In the process, Iqbal reached his seventh first-class fifty in 89 deliveries.

Earlier, Kruthik Krishna's (36) fighting spirit and an invaluable 79-run stand off 175 balls with Mayank Agarwal (160, 266b), batting for 144 minutes, delayed the inevitable.

The resistance ended when he was trapped in front by Sahil (1/50) in the 78th over.

Kruthik reviewed the decision and it seemed like there was a deflection of the ball having brushed the inside edge before hitting the pad. However, third umpire Virender Sharma, having looked at several angles, did not have conclusive evidence to overturn the onfield decision and signalled it out.

Vidyadhar Patil (11) was the next to go when Sunil Kumar (2/51) angled one in on a length, which he feathered it to the keeper.

A not-so-satisfactory outside edge off Auqib Nabi (5/54) that Dikshant Kundal dropped helped Mayank reach his 150 off 253 balls but there was no celebration as he knew the job was far from done.

The 443-minute marathon stay eventually ended as Mayank was caught in front following a review by Auqib Nabi (5/54), who picked his 59th wicket of the season.

Nabi also got No. 60 to become the highest wicket-taker this season when he sent Shikhar Shetty (0) back to the hut. Yudhvir Singh (2/55) wrapped up the innings to hand J&K a massive 291-run lead.

J&K CM in Hubballi

Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Omar Abdullah arrived in Hubballi on Friday to watch Day 5 of the Ranji Trophy final between J&K and Karnataka at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium, reports DHNS.

BCCI president Mithun Manhas, who attended Sunil Joshi's Pavilion Block inauguration, returned after witnessing India's convincing win over Zimbabwe in Chennai. Manhas is also expected to be joined by the other BCCI officials on Day 5.

Pacer Auqib Nabi picked up two more wickets on the fourth day for a five-wicket haul against Karnataka in the Ranji Trophy final in Hubballi on Friday. DH PHOTO/ GOVINDRAJ JAVALI

SCORE BOARD

JAMMU & KASHMIR (I Innings): 584 all out
KARNATAKA (I Innings O/n:220/5): KL Rahul c Wadhawan b Nabi 13 (39b, 2x4), Mayank Agarwal lbw Auqib 160 (266b, 21x4), Devdutt Padikkal c Samad b Sunil 11 (10b, 2x4), Karun Nair b Nabi 0 (9b), Smaran R c Wadhawan b Nabi 0 (1b), Shreyas Gopal lbw Yudhvir 27 (83b, 1x4), Kruthik Krishna lbw Lotra 36 (101b, 2x4), Vidyadhar Patil c Dikshant b Sunil 11 (23b, 2x4), Vyshak Vijaykumar (not out) 17 (27b, 3x4), Shikhar Shetty lbw Auqib 0 (7b), Prasidh Krishna c Sunil b Yudhvir 4 (6b, 1x4). Extras (NB-11, LB-3) 14. **TOTAL (all out, 93.3 overs) 293.**
Fall of wickets: 1-27 (Rahul), 2-56 (Padikkal), 3-57 (Karun), 4-57 (Smaran), 5-162 (Shreyas), 6-241 (Kruthik), 7-256 (Vidyadhar), 8-278 (Mayank), 9-288 (Shikhar).
Bowling: Auqib Nabi 23-7-54-5, Sunil Kumar 19-6-51-2, Yudhvir Singh 14.3-3-55-2, Abid Mushtaq 23-2-75-0, Sahil Lotra 12-1-50-1, Abdul Samad 2-0-5-0
JAMMU & KASHMIR (II Innings): Qamran Iqbal (batting) 94 (160b, 10x4, 1x6), Yawer Hassan b Prasidh 1 (2b), Shubham Pundir c Shrijith b Vyshak 4 (10b, 1x4), Paras Dogra b Prasidh 16 (59b, 2x4), Abdul Samad c Vyshak b Shreyas 32 (70b, 4x4, 1x6), Sahil Lotra (batting) 16 (41b, 2x4). Extras (B-17, W-2, LB-4) 23. **TOTAL (for 4 wkts, 57 overs) 186.**
Fall of wickets: 1-6 (Yawer), 2-11 (Shubham), 3-72 (Dogra), 4-145 (Samad).
Bowling: Vyshak Vijaykumar 10-1-30-1, Prasidh Krishna 12-0-42-2, Vidyadhar Patil 9-0-39-0, Shikhar Shetty 10-3-27-0, Shreyas Gopal 16-6-27-1.

It's tough but I won't count it out: Mayank

VIGNESH BHARADWAJ
HUBBALLI, DHNS

Mayank Agarwal. DH PHOTO

Karnataka continue to ride the wave of confidence that was instilled by their victories in the games against Punjab and Mumbai this season and believe they can pull off something big on the fifth day of the Ranji Trophy final against Jammu and Kashmir at the KSCA Rajnagar Stadium here.

The hosts' nightmarish final continued on the fourth day when they were bundled out for just 293 in 93.3 overs, replying to J&K's 584 on a flat deck.

The misery then doubled when J&K stretched their lead to a whopping 477 after losing just four wickets.

"Still a day to go. I know it's tough, but I won't count it out. We've done a similar thing in Punjab against Punjab. We believe we can chase a score," Mayank Agarwal said after the end of the fourth day's play.

"We know we are behind. We're going to come out in the morning and are going to give our best and see what happens from there," he added.

Amid the ruins, Mayank displayed a sense of composure in the face of adversity as he smashed a stroke-filled 160 to save Karnataka some blushes, taking them to a respectable first innings total.

"I'm quite happy with the way I batted. They bowled well and put us under pressure. Nice to get a hundred."

While the rest of the team found the going difficult, Mayank's batting was based on playing the ball late, close to the body, through the line while maintaining his shape and playing it with soft hands.

Real face City, PSG vs Chelsea

PARIS, AFP

Real Madrid and Manchester City will face in a Champions League knockout tie for the fifth season running after being drawn on Friday to play each other in the last 16, while reigning champions Paris Saint-Germain will take on Chelsea.

The Spanish giants, record 15-time European champions, will host City in the first leg at the Santiago Bernabeu next month before travelling to England for the return the following week.

The clubs have already played each other this season, with Pep Guardiola's City winning 2-1 in Madrid in December during the league phase, in which the Premier League club finished eighth and Real ninth.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE LAST-16 DRAW

- Real Madrid (Esp) v Manchester City (Eng); Bodo/Glimt (Nor) v Sporting (Por); Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) v Chelsea (Eng); Newcastle United (Eng) v Barcelona (Esp); Galatasaray (Tur) v Liverpool (Eng); Atletico Madrid (Esp) v Tottenham Hotspur (Eng); Atalanta (Ita) v Bayern Munich (Ger); Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) v Arsenal (Eng).
- (I leg: Mar 10 & 11; II leg: Mar 17 & 18)
- Quarterfinals: April 7 & 8 and 14 & 15
- Semifinals: April 28 & 29 and May 5 & 6

That allowed City, Champions League winners in 2023, to advance straight to the last 16 while Madrid had to come through the knockout phase play-offs, in which they beat Benfica 3-1 on aggregate.

This is the eighth season in which the teams have played each other since 2012. Real beat City in the knockout phase play-offs last season, and in the quarterfinals on the way to winning the trophy in 2024. They also emerged victorious in the semi-finals in 2022 with City winning at the same stage the following year.

PSG will be at home to Chelsea in the first leg after qualifying for this stage with a 5-4 aggregate win over Ligue 1 rivals Monaco in the play-offs. Chelsea progressed straight to the last 16 after finishing sixth in the league phase.

Record number

There is a record total of six English clubs in the last 16. None will play each other in the last 16 but there are two potential all-English quarterfinals.

Liverpool will have a last-16 rematch against Galatasaray, the Turkish giants having defeated the Anfield club 1-0 in September in the league phase.

Nottingham through, Celtic make exit

PARIS, AFP: Nottingham Forest held off a Fenerbahce fightback to qualify for the last 16 of the Europa League with a 4-2 win on aggregate despite losing Thursday's second leg, while Celtic exited after coming up short against Stuttgart.

Forest led 3-0 from the first leg in Turkey but Kerem Akturkoglu brought Fenerbahce back into the tie with goals in each half, the second from the penalty spot after a foul by Jair Cunha.

Results: Nottingham Forest: 1 (Hudson-Odoi 68th) lt to Fenerbahce: 2 (Akturkoglu 22nd, 48th P), Nottingham won 4-2 on agg; Ferencvaros: 2 (Kanichowsky 14th, Zachariassen 30th) bt Ludogorets: 0, Ferencvaros won 3-2 on aggregate; Stuttgart: 0 lt to Celtic: 1 (McCowan 1st), Stuttgart won 4-2 on agg; Red Star: 0 lt to Lille: 2 (Giroud 4th, Ngoy 99th) after extra time, Lille won 2-1 on agg; Viktoria Plzen:1 (Spacil 62nd) lt to Panathinaikos: 1 (Tetteh 9th) 4-3 on penalties after 3-3 on agg; Bologna: 1 (Joao Mario 56th) lt to Brann: 0, Bologna won 2-0 on agg; Celta Vigo: 1 (Swedberg 63rd) bt PAOK: 0, Celta Vigo won 3-1 on agg; Genk: 3 (Sor 5th, Perez Vinlof 101st OG, Heymans 114th) drew Dinamo Zagreb: 3 (Bakar 45+2nd, Stojkovic 57th P, 75th) aet, Genk won 6-4 on aggregate.

Aussies outplay India to take unassailable lead

HOBART, PTI: Georgia Voll (101) made the most of three lifelines while Phoebe Litchfield hit a belligerent 80 to power Australia to a five-wicket win and an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match women's ODI series against reigning world champions India here on Friday.

After India posted 251/9 on a batting-friendly deck following fifties from Pratika Rawal (52) and Harmanpreet Kaur (54), Australia batters romped home with 13.5 overs to spare.

Voll completed her hundred after a dropped catch down the leg by wicketkeeper Richa Ghosh allowed her to scamper for a single. She was dropped twice before reaching her second ODI ton.

Voll added 119 runs for the second wicket with Litchfield to put Australia on track for win after the hosts had lost the T20Is 1-2 earlier.

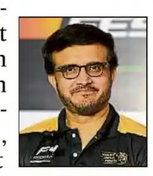
The 22-year-old was on 19 when Kranti Gaud failed to hold on to a tough chance diving to her front at long on, off Deepti Sharma in the 14th over. Later on, a regulation chance at deep mid-wicket was spilled by Smriti Mandhana off Kashvee Gautam.

Georgia Voll (left) slammed a ton while Phoebe Litchfield scored 80 as Australia chased down 252 with 83 balls to spare. X

Brief scores: 251/9 in 50 overs (Pratika Rawal 52, Smriti Mandhana 31, Harmanpreet Kaur 54, Kashvee Gautam 25; Ashleigh Gardner 2-39, Annabel Sutherland 2-37, Alana King 2-41) lt to Australia: 252/5 in 36.1 overs (Phoebe Litchfield 80, Georgia Voll 101, Beth Mooney 31; Kashvee Gautam 2-47, Deepti Sharma 2-32). **Result:** Australia won by 5 wickets. **Series:** Australia lead three-match series 2-0. **PoM:** Georgia Voll.

Ganguly tips Nabi for Test team

NEW DELHI, PTI: Former India captain Sourav Ganguly on Friday showered praise on Jammu and Kashmir for their exploits against Karnataka in their maiden Ranji Trophy final, picking out pacer Auqib Nabi as a player who deserves to represent the country.


Sourav Ganguly

Nabi has claimed 60 wickets so far in this Ranji season, including five for 54 against Karnataka in the first innings of the final.

"J&K has shown the world what effort and intent can do ..They have made that region so proud of them .. tuff environment makes tuff people," Ganguly wrote on 'X'.

"Aqib nabi on his way to national colours .. england is the place to start in the summer," (sic) he added.

AIFF sets strict payment schedule

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

The All India Football Federation (AIFF) has issued a strict payment schedule for the Indian Super League clubs for the ongoing season, with any defaulting club facing ouster from the next season.

Following the troubles of not finding the commercial and broadcasting rights partners early in the season, AIFF proposed that the operational cost for running the much-delayed season was pegged at Rs 25 crore approximately with the federation chipping in Rs 9.77 crore while the 14 clubs will provide Rs 1 crore each.

However, the AIFF, after factoring in the revenue from broadcasting rights, brought its contribution to nil and has directed the clubs to pay Rs 94 lakh approx each (over Rs 13 crore in total) towards the league's operational cost after reducing their share (60 per cent) from the broadcasting revenue and other savings.

The clubs are directed to pay the amount in over three instalments over the next three months, with the first due date mentioned as March 5. Failure to pay the amount past the due date will incur a fine of Rs 1 lakh per day, and further delay past a week will lead to a notice of disqualification from the next season. The notice will come to realisation in four days without further notice if ignored.

The AIFF has been urging clubs to pay the amount. However, a lack of clarity on the league's long-term commercial partners (as per AIFF's 20-year roadmap), has failed to earn the trust of the clubs.

Punjab FC expose Bengaluru FC shortcomings

Effiong strikes twice in first half to hand Blues their first defeat of season

ADITYA K HALDER
BENGALURU, DHNS

Bengaluru FC slumped to their first defeat of the Indian Super League season following a pathetic display against a visiting Punjab FC, who ran away as 2-0 victors at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium here on Friday.

Nigerian striker Effiong Nsungusi scored twice (20th and 32nd minute) to decide the fate of the match as all of BFC's shortcomings -- from slow ball movement to lack of squad depth to a match winner in front of the goal -- were on full display.

BFC, in fact, looked out of wits from the first minute as they failed to control the game with Punjab FC imposing their physical advantage with high pressing early on in a compact formation.

Nsungusi Effiong (left) stole the spotlight by scoring a brace for Punjab during their win over BFC at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on Friday. DH PHOTO/ PUSHKAR V

While BFC tried to move the ball in triangles, PFC came prepared as they cut down their passing options with man-to-man marking and zonal overload in the midfield.

It was quite clear that BFC were tactically outplayed already as almost all of the action was taking place on their side despite keeping the ball. The midfield did themselves no favour by moving the ball too slow.

This came to bite them eventually as PFC took the lead in the 20th minute through a darting header by Effiong from a Manglenthang Kipgen's cross following a throw-in, exposing the lack of command in BFC's defence.

PFC grew further in confidence and exerted themselves more aggresively as the second goal came shortly after. This time BFC midfielder Suresh Singh Wangjam was directly at fault as he lost the ball under pressure 10 yards from the box, allowing Dani Ramirez to set up Effiong for his second goal of the night.

It was quite evident that Punjab players have gotten under the skin of their rivals as the rest of the first half was all about seeing it out without further damage.

Coach Renedy turned to the club's most trusted stalwart in search of answers as Sunil Chhetri joined right at the break. The coach, in fact, made changes in all the departments with Uzbek midfielder Sirojiddin Kuziev coming in for Suresh and centre-back Haobam Meetei joining in place of Chinglensana Singh.

While the three-man midfield formation remained the same, BFC showed more purpose as they were able to stretch the game into the rival's half more often.

The first telling chance for them came close to the hour mark as Ryan Williams was brilliant put through on the right wing by Kuziev on the break. The Australia-born Indian player set Chhetri for a sitter to only see him wildly ballooning the ball over the crossbar.

This was not the only frustrating miss by Chhetri as the 40-year-old striker shot a direct freekick outside the box wildly off-target to sum up BFC's night.

Result: Bengaluru FC: 0 lt to Punjab FC: 2 (Effiong Nsungusi 20th, 32nd).

Stay aggressive but pragmatic also: Message to Indian batters

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Tilak Varma's breezy cameo against Zimbabwe would have given him a world of confidence after scratchy outings. PTI

Having regained their mojo in a smashing performance over Zimbabwe in a must-win Super Eights game on Thursday, India's middle-order batter Tilak Varma said the team will be looking to extend the same in the virtual quarterfinal against the West Indies on Sunday.

"We were just looking for this," said Varma, who scored an unbeaten 44 off 16 balls, in the post-match press conference at the MA Chidambaram Stadium on Thursday following India's 72-run victory over Zimbabwe. "We are looking for the runs, but it's important when openers give a good start, the confidence flows to the number three, four, and five. Sanju (Samson) started brilliantly this evening.

"Today he gave us a brilliant start. The rest of us followed the template. We also discussed that whatever the situation is, if we got out in Power Play, even if we lose three or four wickets, we would bat with the same rhythm. So that's what we discussed and we want to show the fear in the opposite bowlers that these guys are ready to hit each and every ball."

The Indian team copped a lot of criticism following the 76-run defeat against South Africa in the opening Super Eights game where the batting imploded collectively. When asked what was spoken behind the scenes ahead of the clash against Zimbabwe, Varma said the message was to play aggressive cricket.

"After the last game, (head coach) Gautam (Gambhir) sir also said the same thing that whatever the situation, just remind ourselves of the brand of cricket we played since last year, especially against New Zealand and South Africa. So whatever the situation, as individuals, just go out there and smile and enjoy the game. At the same point, just look at the team, what the team needs. Whenever you just see what the team needs, then you won't be under pressure. You always look at what the situation is, how the wicket is going, all these things come into your mind. So that's what we discussed and as an individual we were just focusing on what the team needs and at the end of the day we have done well."

Fast bowler Arshdeep Singh, who bagged 3/24, said despite South Africa humbling the team, they never lost self-belief. "We've been doing well for the past couple of years, so even after a blip or a defeat, the belief of the group was there, and we knew we just had to come and follow our processes, and the result would come our way."

Rinku bereaved, may miss Windies' game

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

Rinku Singh's **(in pic)** father Khanchand Singh passed away at a hospital in Greater Noida early Friday morning following a prolonged battle with liver cancer and the India cricketer is likely to miss the final Super Eights game against the West Indies in Kolkata on Sunday.

According to PTI, the demise of Khanchand was confirmed by Dr Sunil Kumar, spokesperson of Yatharth Hospital in Greater Noida. "His condition had deteriorated significantly in recent days, following which he had been admitted to the hospital on February 21. He was placed on ventilator support and breathed his last early this morning."

Rinku, who flew to Greater Noida from Chennai on Tuesday to tend to his ailing dad before returning to join the team on Wednesday, traveled back home on Friday. It's still not clear when Rinku, who was a surprise pick in the World Cup squad and was in the bench during the game against Zimbabwe on Thursday, will join the team.

According to local media reports, the last rites of Khanchand will be performed in his hometown of Aligarh.

Khanchand, who was involved in gas cylinder distribution business in Aligarh, was instrumental in Rinku becoming a cricketer.

After four successive failures, southpaw regains his touch

Abhishek sheds ego, GAINS FORM

SIDNEY KIRAN
CHENNAI, DHNS

As Abhishek Sharma was going through a lean run for the first time in his fledgling international career, it wasn't just him who was scratching his head wondering what was going wrong all of a sudden. Various members of the support staff, his captain and some of his teammates — all of whom were witnesses to his rise as the No. 1 T20 batter in the world — were equally bemused.

Having seen him blaze a trail like seldom before over the last 20 months that often evoked astonishment from rival bowlers — remember a few New Zealanders literally forensic examining his bat as if it was a battering ram during the bilateral series just before the ongoing T20 World Cup — the management was baffled when the southpaw got out for three successive ducks and five in eight innings.

Baffling because it was hard to say if the 25-year-old was actually out of form. Yes, he was struggling to buy a run, but it wasn't a case of him looking uncomfortable out in the middle. He was striking the ball well but sadly was finding the fielders. Even in the 'nets' sessions, he was timing and belting the balls powerfully.

Abhishek Sharma's first meaningful innings in the T20 World Cup against Zimbabwe augurs well for India. PTI

In the opening game against the USA, where he took the field despite suffering from a stomach illness, he literally smacked the ball from the middle of his bat but was caught at deep cover. The mistake the southpaw committed there was being unaware of the smart field placings by US skipper Monank Patel. The ego of attempting to dominate an Associate Nation from the get-go was the problem.

He skipped the match against Namibia after being hospitalised for the same stomach bug, but against Pakistan, he departed for trying to hit Salman Agha from the onset. A bit of ego because of Agha's pre-match needling and impatience was the issue.

The failures then started to expose other problems — technique and temperament. Oppositions, following extensive video analysis, figured the southpaw had trouble countering off-spinners who took the ball away from him. Netherlands' Aryan Dutt exploited it by castling him.

The Dutch debacle pushed him on the edge and, battling for survival, he went for broke against South Africa in the opening Super Eights game. He wanted to hit himself out of trouble and against an attack as good as the Proteas, it was a high-risk gamble. When luck isn't on your side, poker can't be your play and Abhishek learnt it the hard way. Compounding Abhishek's problems was the fact that India's overall batting too incurred a huge loss.

Through all this turbulence, the management continued to back him. Even when they inducted Sanju Samson back into the playing XI for the must-win game against Zimbabwe here on Thursday, it was the in-form Kishan who was pushed to No. 3. Abhishek got the vote of confidence at No. 1.

Abhishek repaid it with a blistering 55 off 30 balls that saw the smile return on Suryakumar Yadav's face, the skipper who said it was absolutely necessary to cover for the person who had contributed immensely to the team's incredibly successful run on the road to the World Cup.

What was heartening to watch was the way Abhishek swallowed his ego, curbed his impatience and silenced the calls of those who questioned his temperament. Even as Samson started to pull the trigger from the onset on a batting beauty, Abhishek didn't get sucked in. Well aware that if he flopped again the repercussions could be severe, he bided his time.

He watched intently like a sniper as Samson went on a rampage. It was quite unlike him because normally he's the one causing all the damage to opponents. But humility was the need of the hour. He loosened up with a gorgeous lofted drive off Tinotenda Maposa in the third over. A six followed two balls later. It was pace — something he relishes — at him instead of spin, and he suddenly found his powers again. Even after that, he showed good maturity to pick the right balls for the big shots. It was a calculated assault and not blind hitting.

"It's always great, you know, when you contribute to the team. And I was waiting for this moment for quite a long time now, so finally it's happening. I'm really happy. I just wanted to, you know, spend some time at the pitch. A special mention to the team, the way they've treated me so far," a delighted Abhishek told the broadcaster during the mid-innings break.

Rightfully backed up during his trough, a determined Abhishek has found his groove again in the nick of time. It's exactly what India needs now.

SUPER 8s GROUP 1

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
South Africa (Q)	2	2	0	0	4	+2.890
West Indies	2	1	1	0	2	+1.791
India	**2**	**1**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**-0.100**
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	0	-4.475

Pakistan promise final flourish against eliminated Sri Lanka

Salman Mirza

LIVE @ 7 PM

PALLEKELE, AFP: Fast bowler Salman Mirza vowed on Friday that Pakistan would finish the Super Eights with a flourish against already-eliminated Sri Lanka, whether or not they had hopes of reaching the semifinals.

Pakistan needed England to beat New Zealand handsomely in Colombo on Friday and then post a big victory of their own against Sri Lanka on Saturday to sneak into the final four on net run rate.

England did beat New Zealand by four wickets, but the win came in 19.3 overs, leaving Pakistan needing a massive win over the hosts to make the semifinals.

"It's a critical situation as reaching the semifinal is not in our control," Mirza told reporters

"But if we reach the semifinal we have the capability to do better," Mirza said.

Pakistan's campaign started on a nervy note with a three-wicket win in a thrilling last-over finish against the Netherlands before overcoming the United States and Namibia.

In between they lost heavily to India in a highly anticipated clash in Colombo.

Pakistan's first Super Eight match against New Zealand was washed out in Colombo before they lost to England .

What Pakistan need to do

With England beating New Zealand in their final Super 8s game, a slim door of opportunity has opened for Pakistan to make the semifinals, reports DHNS.

To make the last-four as the second team from Group 2, Pakistan have to beat Sri Lanka by 64 runs or chase the target in 13.1 overs. If Pakistan fails to achieve this, then New Zealand will advance to the semifinals.

Eng stamp authority

Three Lions down New Zealand to give Pakistan a glimmer of semis hope

COLOMBO, PTI

Will Jacks picked up two wickets before scoring an 18-ball 32 in England's win over New Zealand at the R Premadasa Stadium in Colombo on Friday. AFP

Already qualified for semi-finals, England defeated New Zealand by four wickets to maintain a clean slate in the Super Eights stage and keep Pakistan's hopes alive in the T20 World Cup here on Friday.

England have registered three wins in as many matches in the Super Eights. New Zealand are placed second in Group 2 with three points.

Pakistan are placed third with one point and they need to win big against already-ousted Sri Lanka on Saturday to dislodge New Zealand from the second spot and qualify for the semifinals.

Earlier, England restricted New Zealand to 159 for seven after the Kiwis opted to bat.

New Zealand batters got starts but couldn't convert them into big scores.

Glenn Phillips (39), Tim Seifert (35), Finn Allen (29) and Mark Chapman (15) all got starts but failed to prolong their stay at the crease.

For England, Will Jacks (2/23), Adil Rashid (2/28) and Rehan Ahmed (2/28) were the main wicket takers, while Liam Dawson (1/32) chipped in with a wicket.

Chasing, England started shakily before some useful contributions from Tom Banton (33), Will Jacks (32 not out), skipper Harry Brook (26), Sam Curran (24) and Rehan Ahmed (19 not out) took them home in 19.3 overs.

For New Zealand, Rachin Ravindra (3/19) was the pick of the bowlers.

Brief scores: New Zealand: 159/7 in 20 overs (Tim Seifert 35, Finn Allen 29, Glenn Phillips 39; Adil Rashid 2-28, Will Jacks 2-23, Rehan Ahmed 2-28) lt to England: 161/6 in 19.3 overs (Harry Brook 26, Tom Banton 33, Will Jacks 32 n.o.; Rachin Ravindra 3-19). **Result:** Eng won by 4 wkts. **PoM:** Will Jacks.

SUPER 8s GROUP 2

Teams	P	W	L	NR	Pts	NRR
England (Q)	3	3	0	0	6	+1.096
New Zealand	3	1	1	1	3	+1.390
Pakistan	2	0	1	1	1	-0.461
Sri Lanka	2	0	2	0	0	-2.800

'Defensive' Abhishek has silenced critics: Gavaskar

NEW DELHI, PTI

Sunil Gavaskar

Former India captain Sunil Gavaskar said he was surprised to see Abhishek Sharma play a defensive stroke, praising the explosive opener for silencing his critics with a timely half-century against Zimbabwe in the T20 World Cup.

Since returning from a stomach bug, Abhishek looked a distant shadow of his dominating self, registering three ducks in a row.

However, on Thursday, Abhishek snapped the lean patch, scoring a 30-ball 55 in India's 72-run win over Zimbabwe to signal a return to form.

"We know how good Abhishek Sharma is as a batter. He silenced his doubters with this knock of 55 runs against Zimbabwe," Gavaskar told JioStar.

"He took that extra time to start his innings. There was a method to his batting. He respected the off spinner, didn't take any kind of risks and played in a calm and a composed manner."

"In this game, he actually played a defensive shot. He defended the ball. I was surprised to see that because we don't usually see Abhishek do that," Gavaskar added.

The legendary batter said it has been a learning curve for Abhishek, whose batting exploits are at the forefront of India's attack.

"I really think this is a learning curve for him. Every cricketer goes through a rough patch of not scoring runs in back-to-back games. It is about how much you learn from it," Gavaskar said.

"I feel Abhishek has learned a lot and this will augur well for him going forward, in the next couple of games and the all-important clash against West Indies in Kolkata."

Gavaskar said India appeared a "broken" side against South Africa but learnt quickly from their mistakes to bring Sanju Samson back at the top to ensure a right hand-left hand combination.

"As they say, why fix things if it ain't broke? But India were broken against South Africa. They realised they needed a right-left combination at the top. Learning from the previous game was very important," he said.

NZ pacer Henry granted parental leave

New Zealand's Matt Henry will leave for home Friday night following the team's T20 WC Super 8s match against England to be with his wife for the birth of their second child, reports PTI from Colombo.

Depending on the team's semifinal qualification, pacer Henry might return to the tournament, New Zealand Cricket (NZC) said.

Head coach Rob Walter was supportive of Henry's departure. "There's a lot of water to go under the bridge but we're hopeful that the stars align for the team and for Matt and that we'll see him back competing in the final phases of the competition."

Aravindh wins, Gukesh held

PRAGUE
(CZECH REPUBLIC), PTI

Aravindh Chithambaram

World Champion D Gukesh played out another draw with Nodirbek Yakubboev of Uzbekistan, while defending champion Aravindh Chithambaram pulled a rabbit out of the hat to beat Hans Moke Niemann of the United States in the second round of the Masters section of the Prague International Chess Festival here.

Following a draw with Niemann, Gukesh's second white game also did not yield much as Yakubboev seemed well-armed in the Queen's gambit declined. After a couple of trades, the position looked level and Yakubboev uncorked a rook sacrifice to force a repetition of position.

The other Indian Surya Shekhar Ganguly opened his account with a draw with Jonas Buhl Bjerre of Denmark.

Results round 2 (only Indian results): D Gukesh (Ind, 1) drew with Nodirbek Abdusattorov (Uzb, 1.5); Hans Moke Niemann (Usa, 0.5) lost to Aravindh Chithambaram (Ind, 1).
Challengers: Jonas Buhl Bjerre (Den, 1) drew with Surya Shekhar Ganguly (Ind, 0.5); Divya Deshmukh (Ind, 1) drew with Daniil Yuffa (Esp, 0.5).

Karna-Musa set early pace; Dean-Gagan play safe

BENGALURU, DHNS: Defending National Rally Champion and last year's winner Karna Kadur of Bengaluru, partnered by experienced co-driver Musa Sherif of Kasargod, set the early pace by clinching top honours in the 2.1-km Super Special Stage of the Blueband Rally of Maharashtra, the sixth and final round of the FMSCI Blueband Sports Indian National Rally Championship (INRC) 2025 at the Grape County tarmac strip in Nashik on Friday.

INRC2 championship leader Jason Saldanha of Mangaluru, guided by Bengaluru's PV Srinivasa Murthy, emerged second fastest overall, while the Himachal Pradesh duo of Aditya Thakur and Virender Kashyap of Team TSI Racing slotted into third place in Triple-S.

Reigning 2025 champions Dean Mascarenhas and Gagan Karumbaiah, the Mangaluru-Kodagu pairing running on MRF tyres, adopted a cautious and measured approach, avoiding unnecessary risks to finish sixth overall and third in the premier INRC1 class.

Provisional Results (Super Special Stage): Overall: Karna Kadur (Bengaluru)/ Musa Sherif (Kasargod), Arka Motorsports (01 minute, 42.9 seconds), 1; Jason Saldanha (Mangaluru)/ PV Srinivasa Murthy (Bengaluru) Arka Motorsports (01:44.3), 2; Aditya Thakur/ Virender Kashyap (both Himachal) TSI Racing, (01:45.1), 3.
INRC1: Karna Kadur/ Musa Sherif (01:42.9), 1; Aditya Thakur/ Virender Kashyap (01:45.1), 2; Dean Mascarenhas (Mangaluru)/ Gagan Karumbaiah (Kodagu) (TSI Racing) (01:48:2), 3.
INRC2: Jason Saldanha/ PV Srinivasa Murthy (01:44.3), 1; Harkrishan Wadia (Delhi)/ Kunal Kashyap (Shimla) Arka Motorsports (01: 46.2), 2; Fabid Ahmer (Palakkad)/ Milen George (Kottayam), Pvt. (01:48.1), 3.

Karna Kadur and co-driver Musa Sherif topped the Triple-S race on Friday at INRC Nashik.

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Saturday, February 28, 2026

Wknd.

Tropical suit: Intelligent reinvention for Indian conditions

FASHON NOTES P03

ADVERTORIAL & PROMOTIONAL LIFESTYLE FEATURE

TONGUE TICKLERS WITH PAPAYA PAGE 02

HOME IS WHERE THE MOVIE IS PAGE 04

3D shift in surgical procedures

Dr Prabhakar B, Head of Department and Lead Consultant - General, Laparoscopic and Robotic Surgery, **Aster Whitefield Hospital**, explains how the minimally-invasive robotic procedures are making a difference with quicker recovery and shorter hospitalisation

As technology continues to evolve and advance in the field of medicine, the benefits that unfold are exponential. For decades, patients had to endure long incisions when undergoing open surgeries. Then came laparoscopic surgeries, which were minimally invasive using small incisions and allowed surgeons to operate using a 2D camera. However, these instruments have limited, stick-like movements.

Now, there's robotic surgery. It is not only minimally-invasive with incisions of not more than one cm, surgeons use a 3D camera that provides superior depth perception with 10X magnification. The most fascinating and pioneering advancement in robotic surgery is that instruments are 'wristed' offering a wider and more flexible range of movements which mimics human hands. Robotic surgery allows the surgeon to sit at the console and operate the robotic arms.

Quicker turnaround time
When the incision is minimal, there is almost no pain after surgery. Patients have shorter hospital stay, faster recovery time and a quicker return to normal activities. Also, the chance of complications arising from post-operative infection or blood clot is reduced. Blood loss is minimal in robotic surgery. In certain surgeries such as gall bladder removal or hernia repair, the patient is discharged and sent home on the same day itself. This is unheard of in open surgeries.

Experience with robot
The enhanced visualisation and dexterity in robotic surgery reduces the margin for human error and allows delicate structures such as nerves and blood vessels to be preserved more effectively. This translates into better clinical outcomes and improved quality of life for patients. With ongoing research and technological refinement, robotic surgery is poised to become a standard of care across multiple specialties in the near future.

Another dimension to surgical care
Robotic surgery is not merely a technological upgrade but a transformative shift in surgical care. Beyond smaller incisions and reduced pain, the platform offers unparalleled precision, enhanced dexterity and superior 3D visualization. This becomes especially valuable in complex abdominal and pelvic procedures where delicate nerves and vital structures must be preserved. For high-risk patients, including the elderly and those with co-morbidities, the minimally-invasive nature of robotic surgery significantly reduces surgical stress and post-operative complications.

And, the ergonomic console enables surgeons to operate with greater comfort and focus during long procedures, further enhancing accuracy.

Dr Prabhakar B

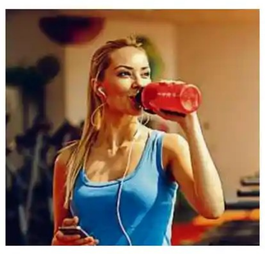
Advantages of robotic surgery

- Small incision, therefore significantly lesser pain
- Minimum blood loss
- Mitigates risk in high-risk patients
- Quicker recovery, shorter stay in hospital
- More efficient and accurate, so better clinical outcomes

It's time to get summer-ready

Skincare with healthy diet

Boost your skin's natural resistance to the sun's harmful rays with antioxidant-rich foods such as tomato, watermelon, green tea and citrus fruits. These help fight inflammation, reduce sun sensitivity and support skin repair from within. A healthy diet acts as an internal sun care, nourishing your skin while enhancing its defence against UV rays.

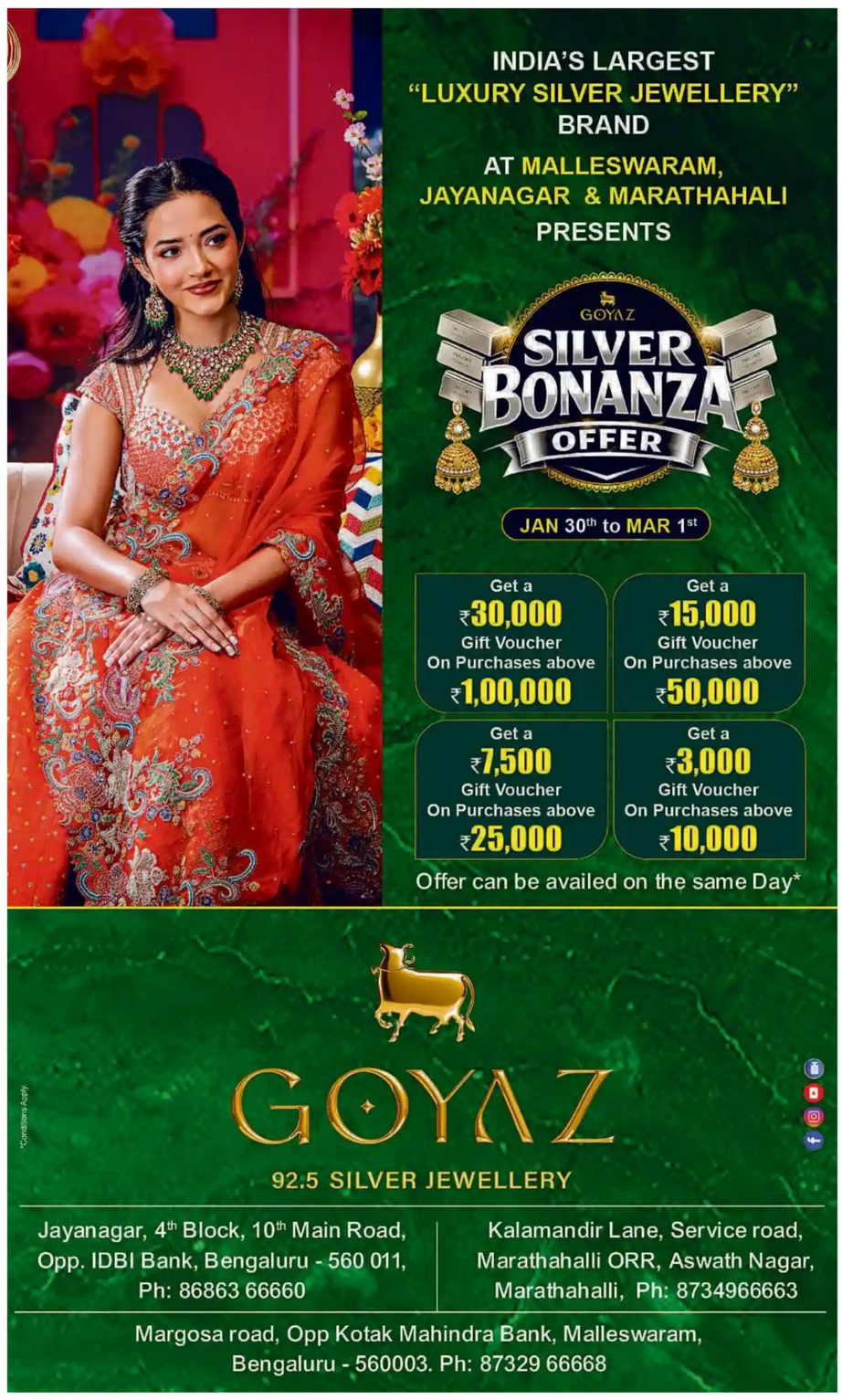


Revisit your daily routine

Have you been working-out at the gym in the mid-mornings? It's time to shift your gym sessions to either early mornings or later in the day, after sunset. If you are outdoors daily, try to slot your work in a way that minimises exposure to the sun, especially in the early afternoons. If you cannot avoid being outdoors in the sun, ensure you wear sunscreen with adequate SPF (SPF 50 is advised). Protective headgear and sunglasses help.

Sip on coolers

Watermelon and mint cooler is a great option for the warm days. Watermelon is over 90 per cent water and packed with potassium. Blend it with fresh mint and a pinch of black salt for a refreshing, hydrating drink. It helps replenish fluids, reduces bloating and cools down the body on sweltering afternoons. Avoid adding sugar, as it's sweet enough already.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Holi hai!

Deepa Natarajan Lobo helps you put togeth a fun-filled Holi party

Festive cheer

A Holi party is all about bright colours, wild splashes, laughter that spills over and that happy energy you just can't keep in check. Still, throwing a Holi party doesn't have to be a stressful affair. A bit of planning can go a long way in ensuring carefully-planned moments that fall perfectly in place.

A few smart touches can turn any gathering into a memorable do both luxurious and laid-back.

Plan the space

Divide your space. Keep one spot for colours, another for coolers, a shaded nook for conversations and an indoor retreat for anyone who wants a break from the sun.

"Cordon off an area where there can be splashing around without any hassles. People like to relax and stay after the bash, so offer a good zone to wash up after the play with enough towels and other supplies," says Veena Nanda, a landscape professional who has hosted many Holi bashes.

Pick a colour palette

Instead of tossing every shade around, pick just two or three to decorate your surroundings, such as marigold, rose pink and ivory. Go for the right gulal complementing these hues, set out in brass or ceramic bowls. Let the textures do the work with white linen, cane chairs, fresh mogra garlands and clay diyas.

"A burst of gold along with yellow, green, purple, pink and orange makes for a great set-up. Floral designs and colours too are completely in," says Pratiksha Kataria, a table stylist. "Offer a sit-down set-up full of vibrant colours including gulal made from rose petals and tableware crafted from the traditional kansa metal which is golden brown," she adds.

Go with soft shades

Request your guests to wear whites, ivories or soft pastels. The photos look gorgeous and the vibe gets an instant lift.

"You can also welcome guests with props like bandanas, beads or artificial flowers that can be worn around the neck or wrists. Many people prefer wearing glasses to protect their eyes so you can get them from party shops as well," suggests Veena.

Leave out a basket of scarves, stoles and sunglasses for anyone who shows up unprepared - tiny touches like this make the whole thing feel thoughtful.

Small delightful bites

Go for nostalgic Holi treats such as refreshing kanji, succulent dahi vada and ice cold thandai, but serve them in small portions. Mini glasses of sharbat, tiny bites of malpua and colourful fruit chaat cones complete the picture.

"Food is the crucial factor that binds everyone together. Set up a grazing table laden with different mithais, short-eats and thandais. These tables can be decorated with traditional Indian flowers and motifs," says Pratiksha. "Playing Holi can be a tiring affair so offer cooling drinks such as fruit punches and buttermilk," adds Veena.

Right notes

Start your playlist with classical thumris and folk Holi tracks in the morning, then slide into indie and instrumentals as the day goes on. The mood stays high, but never frantic. "Bollywood theme is the best and it's ideal to have a person playing the dhol to pep the crowd every time the energy goes low," says Veena.

Wrap up with fun

As the guests recoup after long sessions of colours, music and dance, organise games that can help them unwind and interact with each other over snacks and beverages. "A karaoke afternoon is a great way to conclude your party," sums up Veena.

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DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. WELLNESS

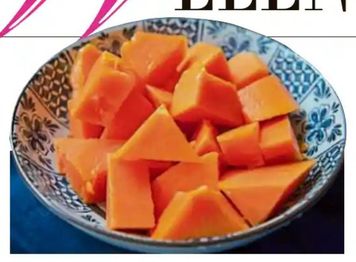
EAT RIGHT

The best time to eat papaya is early morning before your breakfast

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

GOODNESS OF PAPAYA

The papaya season is always on. However, this is a good time to make papaya a part of your diet plan. This fruit is rich in Vitamins A, C and E. It is a refreshing fruit that can be used in salads as well as smoothies. As a fruit, it makes for a great snack in between meals. Always a better option than deep-fried finger foods through the summer months.



BENEFITS OF PAPAYA

This fruit is known to support heart health. It is good for the skin. It reduces risk of some diseases such as diabetes and cancer. It strengthens digestion and boosts immunity. It fights inflammation and helps reduce joints pain. It is rich in fibre and low in glycaemic index. It is also low in calories and helps in weight management.

Tongue ticklers with PAPAYA

Jayanthi Madhukar presents three recipes with green papaya that are both nutrient-dense and refreshing in the warm days

The health benefits of green paya are plenty. It's a low-calorie food that's nutrient-dense and enzyme-loaded that aids in digestion and potentially reducing inflammation. Its high-fibre and potassium content makes it a heart-healthy food as well. Here are three ways to use green (unripe) papaya to create exciting dishes.

Papaya Salad

The flavour of papaya is subtle, but its crunchy texture makes it a welcome ingredient in salads. Most Asian cuisines such as Thai or Vietnamese have their version of spicy, tangy green papaya salad. The trick is in the herbs which provide the character.

What you need:

- Four cups of shredded green papaya (make sure the gratings are long)
- Two cups of bean sprout
- One cup each of chopped coriander leaves and cherry tomatoes
- Half cup each of chopped mint leaves, roasted peanuts, yard long beans (cut and lightly pounded in a mortar) and scallions (green onions)
- One teaspoon of chili-garlic paste (readymade paste will do)
- Juice of two limes
- Quarter cup of light soy sauce (with added salt for punch) or fish sauce
- One tablespoon of palm sugar or brown sugar
- Salt and pepper to taste

Preparation:

In a large bowl, toss together papaya, sprouts, tomatoes, yard long beans and scallions. In a separate bowl mix the sauce, lime juice, chilli-garlic paste, sugar along with salt and pepper to taste. Taste the seasoning and adjust the taste.

Pour the dressing into the salad and mix it well. Add coriander, mint and peanuts to the salad mixture and give it a toss.

Serve it immediately.

Mixed Vegetable Korma with Green Papaya

A very nutritious side dish, you can combine it with rice or rotis. It gives you the goodness of both papaya and a combination of vegetables for a mix of fibre and vitamins.

What you need:

- Two cups of chopped mixed vegetables (carrot, green bean, cauliflower, green pea, potato)
- One cup of chopped green papaya (peeled and cubed)
- One medium red onion, sliced
- Two tomatoes, chopped
- Half teaspoon each of turmeric powder, coriander powder and red chilli powder
- One tablespoon of finely-chopped coriander leaves for garnish
- One sprig of curry leaves
- Salt to taste
- Two tablespoons of curd (optional)

For tempering:

- One teaspoon each of oil (or ghee) and cumin seeds
- One bay leaf
- One small cinnamon stick
- Two cloves

For gravy:

- Half a cup of coconut
- Seven soaked cashew nuts
- One teaspoon each of fennel seeds and poppy seeds
- One inch ginger
- Three green chillies (to taste)
- Two garlic cloves (optional)

Preparation:

In a blender, combine the ingredients for the gravy to make it a smooth, thick paste. Heat oil in a heavy bottom pan and add the tempering. Fry it until it is aromatic and then add chopped onions. Saute till the onion slices become translucent and add chopped tomatoes to it. Cook until tomatoes get soft and oil begins to separate. Now add the green papaya cubes, vegetables, spice powders and salt.

Add water (around one and half cups) to the pan and cover it with a lid. Let the vegetables cook on low heat. Now add the paste to the cooked vegetables and let the korma simmer for a few minutes until the raw smell of the paste is gone and the gravy thickens. Switch off the heat and add the garnishing.

Greens and Papaya Juice

This drink combines the enzyme-rich papaya with other detoxifying ingredients to pack enough punch to power your day.

What you need:

- Half a cup of raw papaya cubes (peeled and deseeded)
- Half a cup each of washed and chopped spinach and green apple
- Juice of one lime
- One cup of water or coconut water

Preparation:

Add all the ingredients in a blender and blend on high until it's a smooth mixture. You can add a piece of fresh ginger for a metabolism boost.

Serve the drink immediately.

LEISURE

Beetle Bailey

MAYBE IF I WAS KINDER TO THE MEN THEY WOULD LIKE ME BETTER
FORGET IT!
I GUESS I SHOULDN'T TALK OUT LOUD WHEN I'M TALKING TO MYSELF
©2024 Comicana, Inc. Distributed by King Features Syndicate.
1/11
GREG+MORT WALKER

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TUBOA

PTAOD

RYNLUU

FWRUCE

Get the free JUST JUMBLE app • Follow us on Twitter @Play-Jumble

I needed the extra time to practice.
It beats working.
10
27
THEY WEREN'T TEEING OFF FOR AN HOUR, SO THEY WENT TO THE PRACTICE GREEN TO ---

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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Answers

They weren't teeing off for an hour, so they went to the practice green to — PUTTER AROUND

ABOUT ADOPT UNRULY CURFEW

HITORI-135

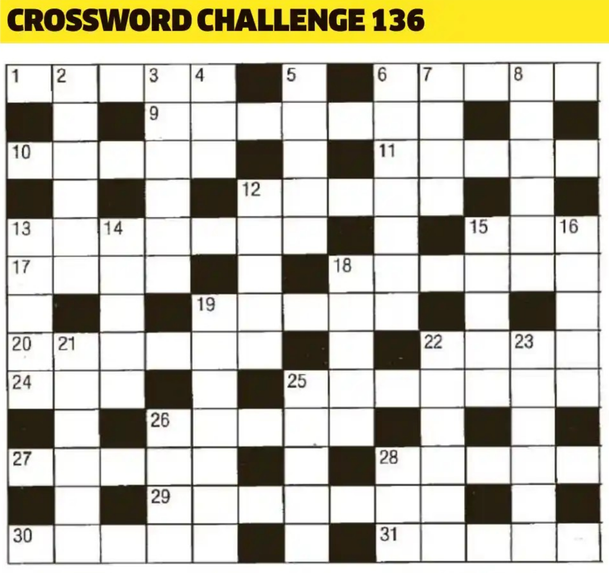
2	8	1	3	5	5	7	2
1	4	4	2	6	2	5	3
5	2	2	1	5	3	5	8
8	3	3	5	1	7	6	4
4	6	7	5	3	5	1	2
7	2	2	7	8	6	2	5
3	4	4	6	5	5	8	7
5	1	5	5	7	8	7	6

SOLUTION for HITORI-135

6	■	8	7	■	5	1	■
7	8	■	5	6	■	4	3
5	■	6	8	■	2	■	7
2	1	■	3	5	7	6	4
4	6	7	5	3	■	8	■
8	■	3	■	1	■	2	5
3	5	■	6	4	2	■	1
■	7	5	■	3	1	8	2

To solve the puzzle: Eliminate numbers by filling in squares so that remaining cells in that row or column do not repeat that number more than once. Filled-in cells cannot be horizontally or vertically adjacent. The un-filled cells must form a single component connected horizontally and vertically.

CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 136



EASY

ACROSS
1 Snatches (5)
6 Sticky matter (5)
9 Oriental (7)
10 Shred (5)
11 Passageway (5)
12 Facade (5)
13 Vultures (7)
15 Record (3)
17 Minerals (4)
18 Type of sheep (6)
19 Easily frightened (5)
20 Fuel (6)
22 Young woman (4)
24 Crack force (3)
25 Rename (7)
26 Cables (5)
27 Long-suffering (5)
28 Stifles (5)
29 Low wall (7)
30 Wickerwork basket (5)
31 At no time (5)

DOWN
2 Clergyman (6)
3 Facial growths (6)
4 Vital fluid (3)
5 Moves (5)
6 Allowed (7)
7 Item (4)
8 Liquid measure (6)
12 Fragile (5)
13 Confines (5)
14 Birds' homes (5)
15 Scope (5)
16 Long-necked bird (5)
18 Quarries (5)
19 Current (7)
21 Religious festival (6)
22 Tiny (6)
23 Record cover (6)
25 Transfer (5)
26 Rub with a cloth (4)
28 Males (3)

CRYPTIC

ACROSS
1 A big hit by accident? (5)
6 Do a stretch up the river? (5)
9 You'd need to go a long way to put anything across him! (4,3)
10 Modern motorway junction, you'll agree (5)
11 Possibly came out of the cold to a holy city (5)
12 Appeal quietly for the best part (5)
13 Many a blemish on an article is cosmetic! (7)
15 House key, often Dutch (3)
17 Roguish as some anarchists (4)
18 Wherein to play cards with the boys? (6)
19 Variety in life? (5)
20 Grand people, goddesses in fact (6)
22 Trot out of sight, we hear (4)
24 One initially entitled to a bus pass? (3)
25 Garment for the labourer? (7)
26 To plagiarise is in bad taste, always (5)
27 So hot, possibly, as to kill! (5)
28 A brushed coat (5)
29 Claimed to be legal, perhaps, by the Editor (7)
30 Be inclined to upset the Poles (5)
31 Wait for dad to get employment (5)

DOWN
2 Medium large portions of fruit (6)
3 If you want a change, throw it! (6)
4 A Whitehall success? (3)
5 Ladle out for a woman (5)
6 Cameron's new love (7)
7 Regarded as hackneyed, ultimately? (4)
8 Foolish flier? (6)
12 Supporters in favour of something extra (5)
13 German goods include fruit (5)
14 Fight maybe broken off (5)
15 Get away with an injured foot? (3,2)
16 Swimmer, always about fifty (5)
18 Look displeased with a learner on a vessel (5)
19 One has to settle outside the city (7)
21 I leave Charlie to go swimming with her! (6)
22 Country name on a tin (6)
23 Rising, set out for a pub game (6)
25 Kept being sad about a historic day (5)
26 Sort of opera with a certain fragrance? (4)
28 Either way, it's enlivening! (3)

SOLUTIONS TO CROSSWORD CHALLENGE 136

CRYPTIC
ACROSS: 1, Smash 6, Reach 9, Wide boy 10, AD-MI-T 11, Me-C-ca 12, P-lead 13, M-a-scar-a 15, Ho.-E 17, Arch 18, School 19, Spice 20, G-races 22, Cite 24, OAP 25, Sweater 26, Steal 27, Shoot 28, Paint 29, Allege-Ed 30, Slope 31, Pa-use.
DOWN: 2, Med-lar 3, Switch 4, Hit 5, Della 6, Romance 7, Eyed 8, Cuckoo 12, Pro-PS. 13, Mango 14, Scrap 15, Hop it 16, E-L-ver 18, Scow-L 19, Se-ttle 21, Rachel 22, Can-Ada 23, Te-nni-s (rev.) 25, Sa-VE-d 26, Soap 28, Pep (rev.).

EASY
ACROSS: 1, Grabs 6, Gunge 9, Eastern 10, Scrap 11, Aisle 12, Front 13, Condors 15, Log 17, Ores 18, Merino 19, Timid 20, Petrol 22, Miss 24, SAS 25, Rettitle 26, Wires 27, Stoic 28, Mutes 29, Parapet 30, Creel 31, Never.
DOWN: 2, Rector 3, Beards 4, Sap 5, Stirs 6, Granted 7, Unit 8, Gallon 12, Frail 13, Coops 14, Nests 15, Limit 16, Goose 18, Mines 19, Topical 21, Easter 22, Minute 23, Sleeve 25, Relay 26, Wipe 28, Men.

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. STYLE
WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

FABRIC MAKES A DIFFERENCE

Always pick a tie in a good fabric as it makes a difference to the way if falls over your shirt. Linen is the most popular fabric for the summer months. Silk is a great fabric that goes well for all occasions and in all colours. A tie in a quality fabric enhances the appeal of the suit or shirt if you are not wearing the coat.

GET THE PATTERN RIGHT

Always remember, a tie never works as a standalone among your ensemble. Bring about a balance between patterns and texture. If your suit has large and bold patterns, keep the tie subdued in a single, solid or pastel shade. The tie can be bold in colour, pattern or texture if the suit is monochrome.

The length makes a difference. Ensure the tip of your tie just about touches the top of your belt's buckle

PRO TIP

Tropical suit: Intelligent reinvention for Indian conditions

Suits designed here adapt to the conditions with a cultural context, writes **Prasad Bidapa**

Tied Up

Fashion accessory

A necktie has for long been a fashion accessory. While it plays its formal part with a business suit, it adds a pop of colour with informal attire. Whether it's for formal occasions and business meetings, or for a party, you can get your tie to amp up your fashion quotient.

Suit the event

For all formal occasions such as business meetings, conferences or visits to clients, pick a tie in silk. Go for one in a single colour. A classic combination is a steel grey or navy blue suit with a white shirt and red or dark blue tie. Any colour stands out against a white or cream shirt.

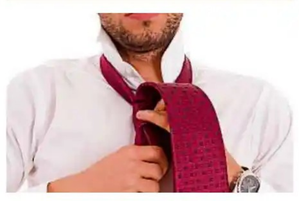
STANDARD IN COLOURS

Generally, a colour code applies, especially in case you are wearing the tie with a formal suit.
In case of a steel grey suit, a maroon or navy blue tie is worn. If it is a black suit, go for a black tie, or if you want a contrast, red is the best choice. A navy blue suit offers more choices – any contrasting colour or in the same navy blue. Follow the standard colour wheel if you are not sure.

FACTOR IN THE SHIRT

The shirt you are wearing has a bearing on the tie too. If your shirt is plain, go for a tie with a pattern or texture. A striped shirt should have a tie in a single, solid colour. You can experiment with designs and textures that match your suit if your shirt is in a single solid colour with no patterns on it.

Mind the proportion



The width of the tie depends on the lapels of your coat. Pick a tie that is slim or standard based on your coat and also your build. Wider ties are suitable for those who are relatively taller and broader-built. Tall and slim people look good in a narrow, straight tie.

Fashion Notes

The suit may have arrived in India as a Colonial import, but it did not remain one. Faced with tropical heat, monsoon humidity and a far more tactile textile culture, Indian designers re-engineered it into something lighter, softer and contextually relevant. The tropical suit is not simply a summer suit - it is a structural rethink. At the forefront of this evolution are many designers.

Abraham & Thakore's work has consistently refined the vocabulary of Indian minimalism. Their unlined seersucker, cotton and khadi jackets, often rendered in ivory, charcoal or muted indigo, demonstrate restraint. The shoulders are natural, canvassing is light, and the silhouette is sharp without aggression. They treat the blazer almost like an angavastram - easy, intelligent climate-aware.

Pairing them with sarongs, lungis and mundus, Rohit Bal approaches the tropical suit differently. While equally rooted in Indian textiles, his interpretation introduces romance and drama. He has used fine cottons, chanderi and even delicate jamdani weaves in tailored formats, often pairing them with fluid trousers. The jacket becomes poetic - sometimes embroidered, sometimes textured - but always breathable. His work proves that tropical dressing need not sacrifice grandeur.

PIC COURTESY: **FDCI**
DESIGNER: **ABRAHAM & THAKORE**

The Indo-European house, Lecoanet Hemant, brought precision to the conversation. Their tailoring is architectural, yet weightless - fine wool blends, sharp lapels, immaculate cut -demonstrating that tropical suiting can maintain global standards of couture construction while adapting to Indian conditions.

Rajesh Pratap Singh pushes textile innovation further. Known for handloom collaborations and engineered weaves, he frequently employs lightweight wool-silk blends and structured cottons that hold form without heaviness. His suits are cerebral - clean lines, subtle detailing and a focus on fabric development rather than ornamentation.

PIC COURTESY: **PRASAD BIDAPA MODELS**

Younger voices reinterpret the suit culturally. Suket Dhir, winner of the International Woolmark Prize, softens the silhouette dramatically. His tailoring often blurs into separates - relaxed trousers, deconstructed jackets - reflecting how Indian men actually dress in summer. It is tailoring without stiffness.

What unites these designers is an understanding that tropical suiting is about air, ease and authenticity. India's interpretation is not derivative - it is adaptive. By integrating handwoven textiles, deconstructed construction and contemporary styling, the tropical suit becomes a symbol of modern Indian confidence - global in language, local in intelligence.

It's time to reset your skincare routine
Dr Mukta Sachdev explains how you can protect your skin from the harsh summer heat

Glow On

As Bengaluru shifts from its mild winter into a blazing summer, your skin feels the change before your wardrobe does. The cool, dry months call for heavier creams and richer cleansers. But when the heat rises, holding on to that winter routine can clog pores, trigger pigmentation and leave your skin looking dull.

For those with skin of colour - which includes most Indian skin types - summer skincare isn't just about oil control. It's about preventing tanning, pigmentation, acne and inflammation, all of which can leave long-lasting marks.

Here's how you reset your routine for the season ahead:

Switch your cleanser

If you've been using a creamy or lotion-based facewash during winter, it's time to swap it for a gentle foaming or gel cleanser. In Bengaluru's summer heat, sweat and sebum production increase significantly. A light, gel-based cleanser helps remove excess oil and pollution without stripping the skin barrier. Avoid harsh, overly drying face washes. Stripping your skin can backfire, leading to rebound oiliness and irritation, both of which can worsen pigmentation in deeper skin tones.

Move from creams to gels, lotions

Winter moisturisers are typically cream-based, rich in occlusives. In summer, these can feel heavy and pore-clogging. Switch to gel-based moisturisers for oily or acne-prone skin and lightweight lotion-based moisturisers for normal to combination skin.

Look for ingredients such as hyaluronic acid, glycerine, ceramides (in lighter formulations) and niacinamide. Niacinamide is especially beneficial for skin of colour as it helps regulate oil, calm inflammation and reduce pigmentation.

Sunscreen is non-negotiable

One of the biggest myths is 'sunscreen is only needed at the beach'. In Bengaluru, UV radiation is significant year-round, and summer intensifies it. For skin of colour, UV exposure doesn't just cause tanning, it triggers stubborn pigmentation, melasma and post-acne dark marks.

Go for a broad-spectrum SPF 30 or higher (SPF 50 preferred) sunscreen this season. Gel or fluid sunscreens are advised for oily skin and non-comedogenic, lightweight formulations for dry skin.

Apply two finger-lengths on the face and neck, and reapply every 2–3 hours if outdoors. If you struggle with sunscreen-induced greasiness, look for matte or 'dry-touch' formulae.

Reassess your actives

Retinols and exfoliating acids used aggressively in summer can increase sensitivity and pigmentation risk, especially in darker skin tones. You don't need to stop them entirely, but, reduce frequency if irritation occurs. Use them strictly at night and prioritise sunscreen during the day.

Gentle chemical exfoliation (like low-strength lactic or mandelic acid) can help with dullness and uneven tone without over-stripping.

Don't forget body care

Summer often means sleeveless clothes and open footwear. Body pigmentation, tanning and 'strawberry legs' become more noticeable. Switch from heavy body butters to light body lotions. Use sunscreen on exposed areas - hands, neck, arms and feet are common sites of uneven pigmentation.

Hydrate - inside and out

Heat increases transepidermal water loss. Drink adequate fluids and consider adding hydrating serums under your moisturiser. Well-hydrated skin reflects light better and looks naturally radiant - no highlighter required. Summer skincare in Bengaluru is about adapting, not over-complicating. Lighten your textures, strengthen your sun protection and treat pigmentation gently. When you reset your routine thoughtfully, your skin won't just survive the heat - it will glow through it.

(The author is a consultant dermatologist)

Indriya, Aditya Birla Jewellery, launches third store in Bengaluru

With the launch of its third store in Bengaluru, Indriya, Aditya Birla Jewellery, has reached a milestone in its expansion journey, as its national footprint has hit 50 stores. This achievement not only highlights Indriya's rapid growth and scaling capabilities but also reflects its increasing resonance with consumers in the organised jewellery retail sector.

In a short span, Indriya has emerged as one of India's fastest-growing fine jewellery brands, expanding across metros and high-potential markets with a sharp focus on craftsmanship, retail excellence and customer experience. As a trusted bridal destination, Indriya has been helping brides become the bride of their dreams through its regional bridal assortment and exquisite designs.

The new store has been envisioned as a signature Indriya destination – offering an elevated and immersive jewellery-buying experience. Showcasing over 28,000 meticulously-crafted designs in gold, polki and diamonds across bridal, contemporary, festive and everyday collections, the space features thoughtfully-curated zones including an exclusive bridal lounge and a dedicated kaarigar room that celebrates the artistry behind every creation.

Speaking on the occasion, Dilip Gaur, Director, Indriya, Aditya Birla Jewellery, said, "As we scale our presence across India, reaching 50 stores is a meaningful and celebratory milestone for us – one that reflects disciplined execution, strong consumer trust and a clear brand vision".

Sandeep Kohli, CEO, Indriya, added, "The launch of our third store in Bengaluru reflects the strong response we have received from customers in this vibrant market. We remain focused on building a design-led, experience-first jewellery brand that resonates with modern India".

DH DECCAN HERALD
Wknd. LEISURE

An arrangement of flowers in different heights, with greens as fillers, makes an attractive focal point

FULL BLOOM

WEEKEND LIFESTYLE FEATURE

TRIM STEMS AT AN ANGLE

Cut the stems at an angle before you place them in a vase. This helps the stems take in more water, keeping the flowers fresh for a longer time. This works well especially in the summer months and when the vase isn't in an air conditioned room. Ensure the stems are long and there's adequate water in the vase.

KEEP THEM FRESH LONGER

Change the water every two days to prevent bacteria from building up. This keeps flowers fresh longer. Remove dead leaves and dried petals from your arrangement every day. Add a preservative to the water. Ensure your vase isn't in direct sunlight, especially in the afternoons. These tips will keep the flowers fresh longer, especially in summer.

Flower **Power**

Flower power

The warm days are here. It's time for a makeover for your living spaces. The heavy drapes and furnishings need to make way for light sheer and linen fabrics. Pastel shades work well in the summer months. This is the time for bright colours. And a sure way to add colour and cheer to your living spaces is through fresh flowers.

ROSE: CLASSIC, VERSATILE

A flower for all occasions and decor themes, rose is a popular choice for an indoor arrangement. In classic red, pink, yellow and white, you can get a combination for effect or go with the rest of the decor in mind. White roses stand out well against an accent wall in a bold colour.

ORCHID: LASTS LONG

A colourful touch to decor, this is a good choice for weekends or holidays when you tend to spend longer hours at home. An arrangement of orchids creates a focal point against pastel shades. It's a good option for a corner table or mantle with a light shade wall behind. The best part of orchids is they last longer than most flowers.

Gerberas: Colour burst

A vase of these colourful blooms is just what you need in the summer months. Gerberas give your living spaces a burst of colour. They work well in all locations – on the centre table as a focal point or on corner tables as part of a decor arrangement. They are informal floral displays that lend both cheer and elegance to the room.

TEXTURE WITH MIXED BLOOMS

A vase with assorted flowers makes for an interesting arrangement. Much like a bouquet it adds a touch of celebrations. As a part of a decor arrangement, it adds texture and creates visual interest. A mixed flower vase is a good object of decor at the entrance to the home. It also works well in the patio if it is expansive.

Quietcation, grocery tourism... holidaying is changing

Holidays are no longer just about sightseeing or shopping. **Deepa Natarajan Lobo** explores some new fads that are catching on among stressed out people looking for a break

Break **Point**

As 2026 flies by, travel sure has taken a different turn and meaning. Travellers aren't in a rush anymore, sprinting through crowded sights or adding more things to do to an already endless itinerary. For many, it's all about slowing down and breathing in the real experiences, while for some, it's about going off-grid to watch the stars or checking out the local supermarkets to savour new tastes.

Says Nasreen Patel, an entrepreneur,

"Sure, the picture-perfect holiday isn't going anywhere. But lately, it's these quiet, everyday experiences that stick with us and shape the trips we remember most."

Here are some travel terms that are catching on this year:

Lux-scaping

Lux-scaping is a concept where travellers book a luxury experience, such as a spa retreat or an upscale hotel stay, at the beginning or end of their trip. It gives them the feel of a deluxe holiday and a chance to relax or come home refreshed, without turning their whole trip into a luxury splurge.

Grocery tourism

Forget racing through tourist attractions. To get a true feel of local culture, more travellers are wandering through local markets and convenience stores, tasting snacks and chatting with vendors. After all, isn't there something heart-warming about picking up fresh bread or spices from a neighbourhood bakery?

Quietcation

Tired and burnt out? You're definitely not alone. More people are skipping the chaos of touristy spots for silence, solitude and digital detox in natural surroundings. Think remote cabins, no-network zones and holidays designed to do absolutely nothing.

Dry tourism

Instead of downing drinks by the pool, travellers are increasingly opting for sober retreats, clean eating, wellness-focussed stay and overall, a holiday completely devoid of alcohol. "During my last trip to Uluwatu, I stayed at a boutique fitness-oriented accommodation with a genuine community feel. We had group classes for cycling, strength and Pilates, and then everyone would migrate to the recovery area. Unwinding at the pool or in the sauna or hitting the ice bath made it such a great social hub. Moreover, having a cafe on-site with a menu built around clean eating meant I didn't even have to think about my food," reflects Nasreen.

Event tourism

Travelling for a concert or a big game is becoming common among culture enthusiasts. Such trips are centred around the main event. Everything else, such as food, sightseeing, shopping etc fall into place around that prime experience.

Astro tourism

An increasing number of urbanites, fed up of skylines filled with skyscrapers, haze and artificial lights, are increasingly heading to remote, low-light spots. Here, they team up with like-minded folks to watch meteor showers, join guided stargazing walks, or just lie back and take in the vast starry sky to engage in, what is known as, astro tourism.

Wellness-first travel

Wellness travel isn't just about yoga anymore. Think sleep retreat, walking holiday, meditation getaway, even trips where the main plan is to rest. "People are also planning their entire travel schedules around a wellness workshop. What adds value to these is that participants can explore in and around these destinations while seeking wellness benefits. This is particularly visible in places like Rishikesh and Kerala," says Rishabh Malhotra, founder of a brand that specialises in traditional Indian strength training.

Home is where the movie is

Want to catch a movie with friends minus the traffic and distance? Shilpi Madan has some tips for a movie night at home

Big **Screen**

Balking at the distance and traffic each time you decide to watch a movie? Take heart. You don't need a den set-up to catch the flicks. Make your own theatre at home and choose from what plays out on the screen. Here's your guide to a cosy set-up:

Pools of amber

Do away with strong lights. Switch to lamps and candlelight as the sun sets. This creates a soft vibe in the space. Bring in the cosy sofa or a snug throw on the couch. You can even add glow ice cubes to the experience while setting up the ice bucket for your drinks.

Set silent mode

Switch off the intercom and the doorbell, put the phones on silent and tune down the din overall. The idea is to focus on enjoying the movie. Too many friends can also ruin the experience if you love catching every dialogue. Keep the group small and intimate. Order in the food beforehand.

Scent it

A warm, pleasing fragrance filling the space is always welcome. Whether lemon or orange; cinnamon or spicy, or lemon grass and camphor, a background score always sets the mood for a good time. Take your pick in scent diffusers.

Snack up

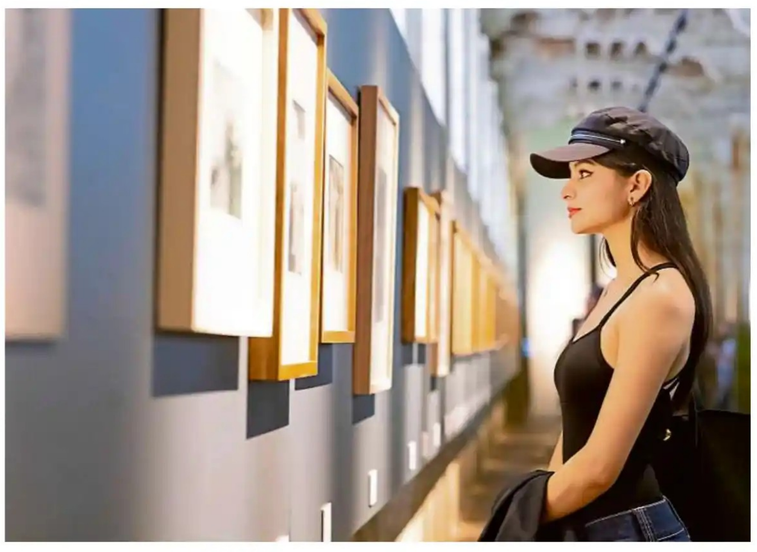
Get out the flavours in popcorn and create share-tubs. Bring in the crunchy munchies in crackers, nuts and cheese platters. Keep cocktails handy. If the evening has a zero-alcohol marker, spruce up with seltzers and scented water, fizzy sodas, and cider to amp up.

Sweet somethings

A surprise element in the dessert always adds punch to the flow of events. Like an ice cream cake, lemon tart or cake pops. Keep a choice in warm and cold desserts to make sure you cover all preferences.

One's company too...

All dressed up but don't know where to go? **Shilpi Madan** has some ideas



Day **Out**

Single and feeling awkward about going out solo? Don't be. There's a wealth of activities you can sign up for and converse with interesting people.

Gym group sessions

The latest trend of exercising on a stationary bicycle to the beats belted out by a DJ is catching up. Sign up solo and meet other wellness enthusiasts at the gym's group sessions. Fun and fitness times guaranteed.

Go on a heritage walk

Informative trivia about the city that you live in, while walking with a group of strangers, accompanied by a guide brings in its own charm. Keep your camera handy, and sense of humour alive, as you join in the banter and snack break after the walk.

Pot it

Enrol for a pottery class. The magic of moulding the clay, regulating your breath while at the wheel, and bonding with your own self with others around is therapeutic. The laughter and banter keep the tempo going as you shape your own little pot.

Artful moves

It could be a street play, a stand-up comic act or an art exhibition. Go to an art gallery, attend student shows in art colleges, volunteer to set up an art corner in your neighbourhood or attend an art exhibition.
You are bound to meet like-minded people as you converse with textures and colours.

Sign up

Find your rhythm. It could be a Pilates class, a Krav Maga or Muay Thai encounter. It could be a concert or time well-spent at a board games cafe, or even at a pet cafe. These spaces make way for conversations that are easy going and are a welcome detour from screen consumption.

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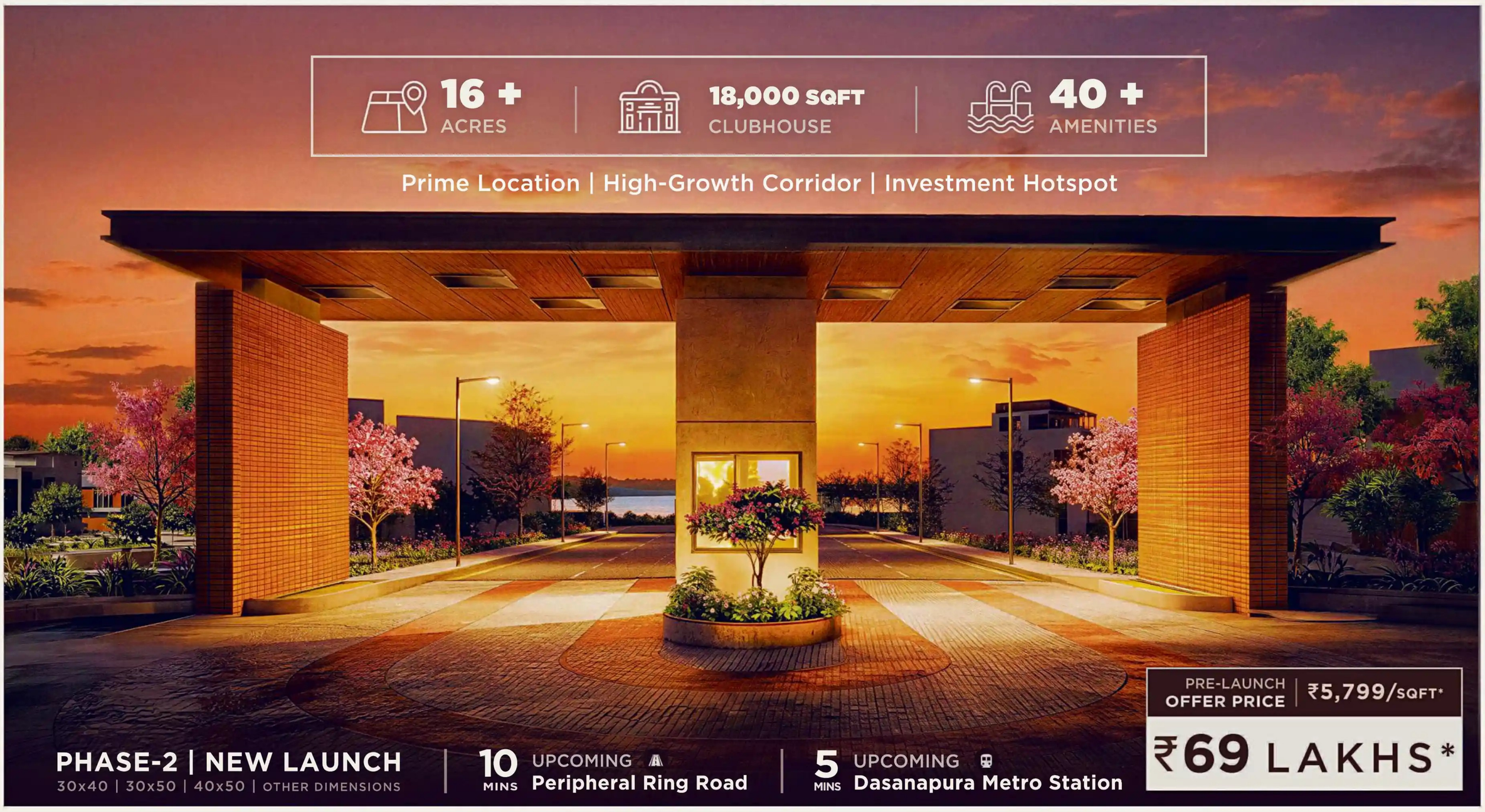
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I, GULFIYA Abdul Rahiman Shaikh, residing at Flat No. 311, Sipani Jardin Apartment, B Block, 3rd Floor, Madivala Village, Marasur Post, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore – 562106, have changed my name to Gulfiya Abdul Rehman Shaikh and shall hereafter be known as Gulfiya Abdul Rehman Shaikh for all purposes.

CHANGE OF NAME
I, **VENKATALAKSHMAMMA** residing at # 117/2, Sri Rama Temple Street, Byatarayanapura, Sahakaranagar PO, Bengaluru-560092, have changed my name to **LAKSHMI ANANTHRAJ** vide affidavit dated 24-02-2026 before notary G.R. Ravichandra Reddy, Bengaluru. Henceforth I shall be known as **LAKSHMI ANANTHRAJ** only.

I SURESHA BUNTS VISHWANATH, R/a #8, 2nd main, 2nd cross, Kaverinagar BSK 3rd stage. Bangalore-85, have changed my name from B.V SURESHA. To SURESH RAI B.V. Vide affidavit dated 26/02/2026 before notary Mohammad Hussain.K. Bangalore

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I, **Nikhil J.P.** S/o Late J.T. Puttaswamy Gowda, R/at. Yelahanka new town, Blr, have lost **Original Sale Deed Doc No: 2690/92-93 Property: 1601/D, Maruti Nagar, Yelahanka owned by Chennakeshava Gramodyoga Sangha.** If found contact: **7259318886**

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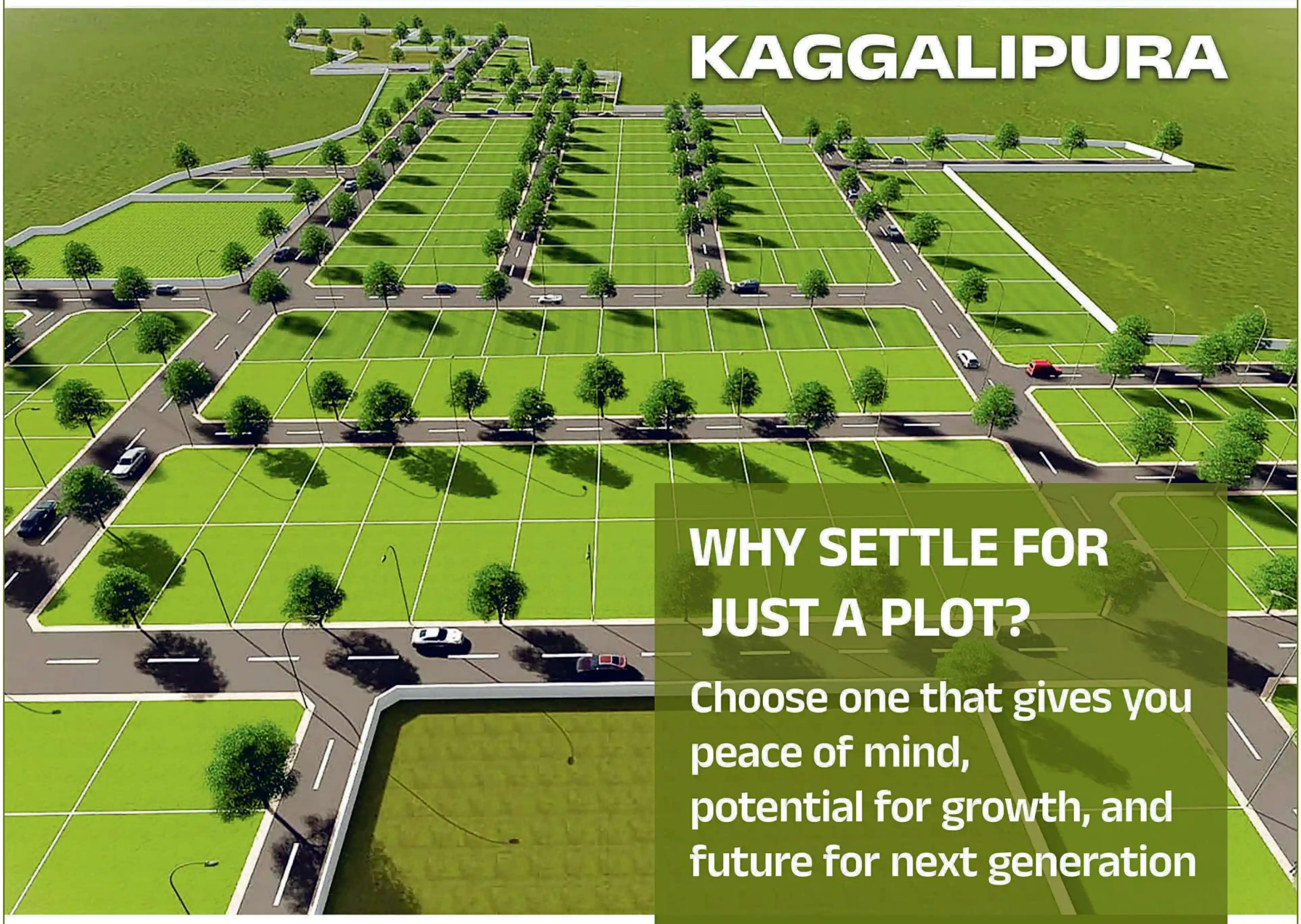

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